



Edited by
SAMM TAYLOR

LONDON

FACT FILE

★ For more information on visiting London over the festive season log on to www.visitlondon.com/christmas

★ This provides a full run-down of festive events and information on travel, hotels, food and drink, seasonal shopping, music and entertainment to suit all budgets. You can also contact the London Tourist Board on 0870 588 7711.

Off to Narnia for a magical day trip

FANS of the fantasy world of The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe are about to get their own chance to walk through the wardrobe into mystical Narnia.

It's part of a special exhibition at London's Imperial War Museum, which is holding a series of free Christmas activities suitable for all the family.

In the museum's own Narnia, visitors meet a wartime evacuee and find out about life away from home in an exciting and different world – whether it's the magical land discovered by the children in the new hit movie or the evacuee's life with a new family in the countryside.

They can meet the White Witch and sit among the bare trees of her wintry kingdom before helping to bring them to life by writing their own goodwill messages of peace and Christmas goodwill on evacuees' labels to create the trees' sparkling silver leaves. The Lion,



IT'S MAGIC: The new Narnia movie

the Witch and the Wardrobe – Tales from Narnia is open from December 17 to 22, and 27 to 30.

For more details visit www.iwm.org.uk or call 0207 416 5320.

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CLASSIFIED HOLIDAYS
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THINGS TO DO

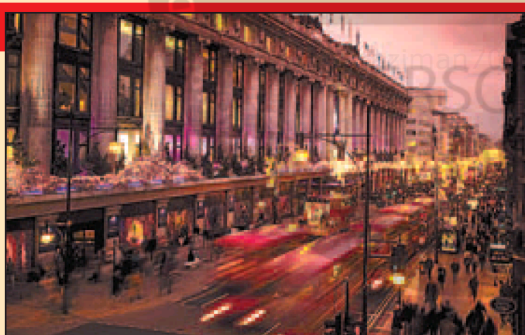
It's a feast of fun

IF you reckon ice-skating is always done in draughty concrete buildings with crumbling paintwork, think again.

London has witnessed a huge increase in open-air ice rinks in time for Christmas, including one at Hampton Court, the Tower of London, Marble Arch and Somerset House (main picture).

If that's slightly too energetic for you, why not watch the action from the top of the London Eye?

Along with amazing views of Parliament, Whitehall and Buckingham Palace, you'll also be able to catch a glimpse of the



BRIGHT IDEA: Take in the lights on bustling Oxford Street

spectacular Christmas lights on display in Oxford Street and Trafalgar Square.

Regular visitors to London know the city truly comes to life at night. Pubs provide a warming haven, while the array of restaurants dish up everything from curry in Brick Lane to Peking duck in Chinatown.

For a special Christmas treat,

there's Santa Land in Earl's Court Exhibition Centre, or a carol sing-along at the Royal Albert Hall.

Pantos and shows are also on offer, with Scrooge at the London Palladium and The Snowman at the Peacock Theatre.

But whatever you enjoy most, you'll find it all in London. In fact, the hardest bit is deciding which bits NOT to do or see.

Just Jane



**JANE O'GORMAN SOLVES
YOUR PROBLEMS TODAY
... AND EVERY DAY**

HOL LOT OF TROUBLE

I WAS devastated when my partner told me she didn't love me any more.

First, she refused to let me move in with her when she bought a new house.

Then she accused me of being in her face.

I agreed to let her have all the time and space she needed, but now she's having an affair with my best friend.

Suddenly, the two of them are as thick as thieves. He's round her place all the time and her neighbour's seen them in the bedroom together.

I blame myself because I was the one who introduced them to each other.

At first, my mate brought his girlfriend

She's left me for my mate

along, and we'd all go riding together on our motorbikes. Then he said he liked swimming. So my girl started meeting him at the local pool.

I started to suspect something was going on between them when we all went on holiday to Spain in the summer.

One night, they were out on the balcony until 3am. Then, when my girlfriend came to bed, she refused to have sex.

Back in England, she started saying she was fed up with me and that I'd ruined her holiday. Now we're at loggerheads.

The other day, we had a showdown in

the street and she told me to "p*** off out of her life."

In retaliation, I threatened to tell my mate's girlfriend what was going on.

That night, he left several messages on my phone begging me to back off.

Now, neither of them is talking to me and they aren't taking my calls. I just don't know what to do for the best.

JANE SAYS: Unfortunately, you've got no choice but to leave your ex-girl and ex-mate to it.

If they have decided that they've fallen in

love and want to be together, then there's nothing you can do about it.

I fully understand that you feel bitter and hurt, but this ship has sailed.

Your relationship is over and your ex-girlfriend no longer wants to have anything to do with you. She has moved on and now you need to do the same.

Resist the urge to play games by contacting your ex-mate's girlfriend. Their relationship has got nothing to do with you and you'd achieve nothing by stirring. Concentrate on retaining your dignity by looking to the future and getting on with your life.

It's very sad that your ex-girlfriend ultimately let you down, but these things happen and we just have to learn from the experience.

HUBBY WON'T MAKE LOVE

MY husband is quite religious and said he wanted to wait until our wedding night before we made love.

Because I was terrified of losing him, I led him to believe that I was still a virgin (despite the fact that I lived with my ex-partner for three years).

Well, I've now been married for three years and I'm still my husband's "virgin".

He has never made any attempt to make love to me. At first I literally used to bang my head on the headboard in frustration.

I used to beg him to take me and consummate our marriage. But all he used to say was: "The time is not right."

Now I've given up pestering him and have started sleeping with my ex again.

This is not the way I thought married life would be and I'm desperately disappointed and unhappy.

JANE SAYS: You're obviously reluctant to give up on your marriage.

You feel that if you walk away, you'll have failed - especially if your husband is religious as you suggest.

But that this isn't a proper marriage. It's a sham. Your husband, for whatever reason, has failed to consummate the union. And that's simply not natural.

By all means try to talk to him away from the bedroom. Insist on hearing the truth.

Is he gay? Does he have another lover? Did he have a bad experience of sex as a youngster?

Find out whether he'll visit Relate (0845 456 1310) with you. But if he still refuses to open up, then you must conclude that he has misled you and let you down - and move on.

EX WHIPS OUT HIS PRIVATES

MY ex-boyfriend of 12 months slept with one of his old Army pals just two days after breaking up with me.

He insists it doesn't matter because we were history by then.

But I feel utterly heartbroken.

I'm 18 and don't know how I'll ever be able to trust another bloke again.

I always knew my ex was in touch with his Army mates, including girls, but I never imagined that he'd end up sleeping with one of them.

Jumping into bed with another girl just two days after we broke up is deeply insulting. Do you agree?

JANE SAYS: I agree that sleeping with another girl after only two days was pretty fast work.

But if this guy is now your ex-boyfriend, does it really matter if it was two days, two months or two years?

The fact is, he's no longer in your life. You're both single again and free to date whoever you like.

Don't allow yourself to get hung up on this. Cut him out of your life and don't give him another thought.

I WAS BAD WITH THE BUILDER

Day Six

1 NEXT DAY...KERRY IS WAITING FOR ANDY



Not much point in getting dressed today

2 ANDY ARRIVES



Ready and waiting I see!

Come here you hunk

3



This is such fun

4

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Write to JUST JANE, Daily Star, 10 Lower Thames Street, London EC3R 6EN or e-mail jane.gorman@dailystar.co.uk

HE WEARS MY UNDIES

I HAVE just found out that my husband's been wearing my underwear for the past 21 years.

I don't know how to react, but I wish I'd known sooner.

I exposed him last week when I came home early and found the house in darkness, apart from our bedroom.

I crept upstairs and found him on the bed wearing my girdle, stockings and nightie.

He confessed that he's been wearing women's clothes since he was 12.

I love my husband to bits, but I'm finding it hard to get my head around this.

JANE SAYS: It's vital that you avoid the temptation to brush this under the carpet.

I suggest that you invite your husband to talk to you, away from the bedroom, to find out what motivates him and how he feels.

Let him know how shocked you are and see if you can find a way forward together. The reality is that lots of men like to dress up in women's clothes.

You need to find out how you can accommodate his needs within your relationship without it causing embarrassment or resentment.

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NOW OPEN SUNDAYS: BRIGHTON, CRAWLEY shops are now open on Sundays between 10am and 4pm, MARGATE 11am - 5pm. The shop in BREWER STREET, SOMO, LONDON is open on Sundays between 11am and 1am.

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It's the business

'Life's tragedy is that we get old too soon and wise too late' - Benjamin Franklin

Movers & groovers

IT might strike as blindingly obvious that workers unhappy in their jobs are more likely to become ill, but a study of 250,000 employees by Lancaster University and Manchester Business School can prove it.

Their research found job satisfaction influenced mental health in particular.

People with little satisfaction were most likely to experience emotional burn-out, have reduced self-esteem and suffer from anxiety and depression.

MERVYN King was in Derby yesterday meeting business leaders and if the Bank of England governor's interview on the city's local radio station is a guide, he had packed his straight bat.

"I don't know where interest rates will go in the future," he told BBC Radio Derby.

And as for the UK economy: "We are not going to see anything terribly exciting, but then we don't want anything terribly exciting."

SHARES in Google, the internet search group, crossed the \$400 mark this week for the first time since they launched on the US Nasdaq market at \$85 each some 15 months ago.

Their value has soared almost \$100 in the last month on the back of impressive quarterly results.

The company is now worth about \$120 billion, 10 times the market value of General Motors but still way below Microsoft's \$293bn price tag.

- THE DEALER

FAIR SHARES

TALK that Travis Perkins' Wickes stores would be hit by a DIY price war this weekend made it the second biggest faller in the FTSE-250.

B&Q is holding a "10% off everything" sale. Travis lost 35p to £12.05, while B&Q owner Kingfisher gained 3.5p to 218p.

Bus giant's NZ sell-off talks

THE Stagecoach Group is in talks to sell its New Zealand business which could fetch up to £100 million.

Infratil, a New Zealand-listed airports and electricity investor, said it had reached a conditional agreement to buy the Scottish-based company's operations in the country.

Stagecoach confirmed it was in talks with Infratil but said it had also received approaches from several potential buyers.

Stagecoach runs bus firms in the Auckland and Wellington areas where its fleet of 1,000 vehicles carry 60 million passengers a year.

It also owns Fullers Ferries

which runs ferry services off Auckland.

Pulling out of New Zealand would mark another step in Stagecoach's strategy of concentrating on its UK and North American operations.

Two years ago, it sold its Hong Kong buses and in 2002 it scaled back its US businesses.

HOT GOSSIP

PUB group Enterprise Inns, down 7p at 849p yesterday, should be a buy ahead of its full-year results announcement on Tuesday, brokers say, partly because of extended opening hours. Enterprise should be the biggest winner from licence reforms.

Shares soar

FOUR YEAR HIGH

SHARES in Britain's biggest companies hit a four-year high yesterday as record metal prices and takeover talk lifted stocks.

The FTSE 100 index of top firms surged ahead, climbing more than 60 points to 5531 at one stage - the highest level since August 2001.

It followed big rises on other markets around the world, including Wall Street, Frankfurt and Tokyo - where shares reached their highest levels for five years.

The rise in London means the heavy falls in October, due to worries about high oil prices and US inflation, have now all been reversed.

Pensions

But after staying above the psychologically important 5500 barrier for most of the day, the FTSE 100 eased back in the closing minutes to end the session 38.9 points up - at 5498.9 points.

Shares have climbed by 684 points since the start of the year, a 14.2% rise that will

by BILL MARTIN

bolster the value of hard-hit pension funds, and ease pressure on the Bank of England to cut interest rates.

Richard Hunter, at broker Hargreaves Lansdown, said renewed takeover activity has breathed new life into the market.

He added: "If we can consolidate at 5500, we might be in for a year-end rally."

David Buik of Cantor Index said: "The threat of further mergers and acquisitions brought fresh money out of the woodwork."

£3bn pub battle

ONE of Britain's biggest pub groups, privately-owned Spirit, is about to call time on prospective entrants for a £3 billion takeover fight.

It is believed that by the end of Monday chief executive Karen Jones will have received "well constructed" offers from three bidders. They are expected to be Britain's second-largest pub group Punch Taverns, Clearbrook Capital - the vehicle of ex-West LB banker Robin Saunders - and property magnate Robert Tchenguiz.

The group, which owns the Chef & Brewer brand, is for sale because backers the Texas Pacific Group, Blackstone and Merrill Lynch are looking to exit their investments.

ON A ROLL: The only way is up for stocks



ASDA'S ON THE ATTACK

AMERICAN retail giant Wal-Mart is opening its biggest UK store today as it aims to step up pressure on its rivals.

The 110,000 sq ft Asda store in Milton Keynes includes all the retailers' food and non-food ranges as well as a sports shop, opticians and a new format for its George clothes.

The store, five times bigger than the new Wembley stadium football pitch, is part of a £55 million investment programme in the area.

Last week Wal-Mart said Asda was still seeing the impact of a tough market in the UK where quarterly sales had failed to grow.

Swipe

The new-look George, which will be rolled out to other big stores if successful, is designed to swipe market share from high street retailers like Next and Marks & Spencer.

Phillip Auld, George UK managing director, said: "This is a big step change in how we sell clothing in the supermarkets. There is still a huge opportunity to grow George."

He added shoppers traditionally spent 35% more on clothes in High Street shops than in supermarkets and the company was keen to narrow the gap.

Asda is the second biggest supermarket in the UK behind Tesco. But Sainsbury's has been biting at its heels as its recovery gains momentum.

Tesco has a 30.3% share of the grocery market, compared to Asda's 16.7%.

FTSE100 SHARE INDEX ▲ Up 38.90 points (0.71%) at 5498.90

Company	Price	Change	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	High	Low				
3i Grp.	842	+17	848	837	1470	Centrica	240.	-1	264	217	1818	Land Secs.	1572	-12	1635	1215	1035	Ryl Dutch Shell A	1814	+26	1875	1847	6690
A.B. Food	826	+1	863	726	1082	Compass Group	206.	-3	264	175	7663	Legal&Gen.	111.	+1	119	102	1038	Ryl Dutch Shell B	1901	+24	1959	1727	6691
Alliance & Leic.	858	+11	947	814	2233	Daily Mail	553.	+8	764	617	3973	Lib-tel	1004	+12	1025	861	7649	SAB	1024	-12	1100	774	4718
Alliance Unchm	858	-2	875	710	6022	Diageo	846	-3	862	721	1029	Lloyds Int	474.	+7	509	415	6395	Sage Grp.	232.	+3	238	184	6601
AMVESCAP	382.	+4	426	299	1124	DG Int'l	147.	+1	167	139	1020	Man Grp.	1805	+45	1815	1162	896	Sainsbury(J)	288.	+1	302	257	1050
Anglo	1836	+25	1869	1130	4940	Ent. Inns.	849	-7	872	615	4713	Marks & Sp.	441	+1	445	319	1039	Schroders	891.	+10	947	675	1415
Antofagasta	1690	+35	1722	1052	3438	Exel	1215	-5	1235	711	1366	Morrison (Wm)	175	+1	227	161	1253	Schroders Nv	828.	+10	875	613	2917
Astrazema	2515	+22	2767	1861	1585	Frandsen Prov.	188	+2	191	146	7753	National Grid	545	+7	561	471	4443	Scott & Newcastle	478	+3	492	417	1421
B&Q	695	+3	703	573	3388	Gallagher Grp.	888	+3	907	706	2222	Next	156	+1	1681	1268	1254	Scott & Sh. Engrg.	1014	+1	1040	806	6027
BAA	633	+5	639	571	7389	GlaxoSmithKline	1497	-11	1544	1101	1024	OZ	175	+1	183	150	3555	Severn Trent	1002	+1	1058	880	4018
BAC Sys.	349	+6	350	224	1010	GUS	876	-1	989	821	1237	Old Mutual	195	+2	209	114	2100	Shire Pharmcl	713.	+5	717	519	5200
Barclays	612	+9	616	519	1004	Hammerson	99	+16	1006	789	2260	Old Mutual	149	+2	148	115	2782	Smith&Nephew	500.	+4	538	451	1434
BHP Bill	561	+7	577	344	7274	Hanson	606.	+13	609	409	1030	PartyGaming	98	-2	176	71	8400	Smiths Group	956	+1	972	764	1437
Bolton	644	+6	615	564	2423	HBOs	889.	+4	912	732	3333	Pearson	647.	+1	694	602	1374	Stand Chart	1283	+40	1291	924	4887
BDO Grp	1145	-12	1173	965	1008	Hilton Grp.	336	+1	356	257	1942	Prudential	520	+8	542	414	7481	Tate & Lyle	507	+6	549	440	4655
Boots Group	608	+4	692	583	1009	HSBC Hldgs	947.	-9	952	825	5562	Reed Elsevier	1825	+7	1850	1513	1046	Tesco	308	+1	335	294	1056
BP	770	+7	683	500	1011	Imp. Chem.	322	+2	324	229	1032	Reed Elsevier	524.	+1	553	461	1396	Unilever	563	+1	602	476	5983
Bp	644	+7	683	500	1011	Imp. Tobacco Grp	1680	-10	1707	1330	1271	Rentok Int'l	158.	+1	173	139	7779	Unilever	563	+1	602	476	5983
Br. Airways	313	-1	325	215	6298	Int'l Hotel	730	-7	801	612	3729	Reuters Grp.	393.	+4	428	351	1047	Unilever	563	+1	602	476	5983
Br. Amer. Tob.	1317	+12	1329	855	1003	Int'l Power	237.	-3	252	150	6025	REXAM	517.	+5	520	443	1115	Unilever	563	+1	602	476	5983
Br. Land	1044	+30	1074	780	1128	Johnson Math.	124	+2	1254	915	1280	Rio Tinto	2414	+34	2475	1430	6999	Unilever	563	+1	602	476	5983
BSkyB	453	+2	455	491	1942	Kelda Grp.	734.	-1	744	526	4018	Royal Bank Scot.	1683	+12	1833	1522	3219	Unilever	563	+1	602	476	5983
BT Group	208.	+1	235	194	1012	Kingfisher	218	+3	316	201	5908	Royal & Sun All.	109	+1	110	73	7482	Unilever	563	+1	602	476	5983
Cable & Wire	119	+2	164	107	1015																		
Calsonic	567.	-2	594	459	1016																		
Capita Group	387.	-1	394	245	5253																		
Carnival	3162	+15	3241	2537	2598																		

The service is provided for general information only and is not intended to include individual recommendations, forecasts or other financial advice. It is obtained by making information available to the public and will be taken in ensuring the accuracy of the information provided but it may include errors, omissions or

Source: Reuters Data Stream

For real-time share prices and our share dealing service, Dial 0905 062 0973 and listen to the instructions. Calls are charged at 60p per minute from a BT landline. For more details call our helpline on 0871 434 1519.

Antiques go for a song

STRUGGLING antiques dealer Partridge Fine Arts is to go private in a £4 million deal.

And former heritage minister David Mellor will join the board.

Mellor, a keen collector of 18th century porcelain, is a director of Amor who will take a 51% controlling stake in Partridge.

London auctioneer Mark Law will become chairman and managing director. The founder's grandson, John Partridge, 76, will become president. Mellor and his partner,

Viscountess Penelope Cobham, will be non-executive directors along with former Unilever executive Christopher Jemmett.

With financial backing from Christies, Amor is paying 35.4p per share for the initial stake and up to 74p for the remaining stake within four years.

Analyst Richard Ratner said it was a "pretty lousy deal for shareholders". The share price fell 20%.

Partridge has been hit by a drop in high-spending US visitors to London.

Source: www.DigitalLook.com

DAILY STAR SATURDAY

+++SPORTS EXTRA+++

TXT MANIACS

Text Dssport followed by a space, then your name and comment, and send to 61616. Texts cost 25p plus your normal mobile operator cost.

TEXT DSSPORT TO 61616

- ☐ To Georgie 4eva JG: And how many premiership titles, FA cups etc has that muppet Shearer help u win. A BIG FAT NONE. Lets all laugh at shearer u geordie muppet. Phil C
- ☐ 2 manny waf, i 4 1 am made up 2 c Wigan playmen as they r their another north-west team runnin riot in d prem. keep it up, an ur rife, marsh-no balls. EFCWULY
- ☐ Football cums da craze in Wigan wot happened 2 da rugby? True Latics supporters must b laffin. Skemscouser
- ☐ 2 add 2 wot anon (sat 12th) said about mancs hatin scousers,not only is a scouser there best player EFC took a cool \$65m off you, u yanky mancs u. EFC ALI
- ☐ so glazer blue sez chelski av 47k evre wk were av they bin hidin 4 last 100yr? bandwagon jumpers, itll end in tears 4 u wen big roman finds nu-toy. WOOLY
- ☐ to grovisie swinton mcr how the tide line has turned when the biggest thing in utd season is beatin us or gooners blue is the colour. turkish blue
- ☐ To DCFC 1884. Enjoy while ya can. We'll pass u on the way back up. MrT Geordie Red Dog
- ☐ our ground is always full by blue mancs? Another little lie by our bitter blue cousins. beswick red
- ☐ to w ham bob. we will never know if you would fill ya ground for a ueta cup match coz you aint ever going to qualify. MILLZY BWFC
- ☐ 2 COLIN HENDRY THAXX 4 KEEPIN THE GOOD WORK UP AT BLACKPOOL LETS C IF LARRY GRAYSON CAN KEEP IT GOIN DONKEY LASHIN T****S. MUZZA PNE4EVA
- ☐ 2 pne paul we are higher than u in the league now and the way your players r leaving the club its gonna stay that way! claret 4 life! claret lee
- ☐ chelski mub shoutin der eds off cos d won d league,TRY HUMILITY if u no wot it is, still £300m & 100+ yrs 2 wait must b a bit much 4 you 2 andie?
- ☐ all Vile fo fans, wote they really like livin in a tym warp? Chas Blue 2



TODAY
FOOTBALL - Wigan v Arsenal (SS1, 12noon, KO 12.45pm); West Brom v Everton (Sky Prem Plus pay. 5pm, KO 5.15pm); Match of the Day (BBC1, 4.45pm); Real Madrid v Barcelona (SS2, 6.30pm).
RUGBY UNION - England v New Zealand (SS2, 2pm, KO 2.30pm); Ireland v Australia (BBC1, 2.25pm, KO 2.30pm); Wales v South Africa (BBC2, 4.45pm, KO 5pm).
RUGBY LEAGUE - Great Britain v Australia (SS1, 6pm, KO 6.15pm).
CRICKET - Australia v West Indies (SS1, 6am/SSX, 11.30pm).
HORSE RACING - Windsor & Haydock Park (BBC1, 1.05pm); Huntingdon & Lingfield Park (C4, 2pm).

TOMORROW
FOOTBALL - Brighton v Crystal Palace (SS1, 1pm, KO 1.30pm); Middlesbrough v Fulham (SS1, 3.30pm, KO 4pm); Spanish La Liga (SS1, 8pm); Italia Serie A (Bravo, 7pm); Match of the Day 2 (BBC2, 10.30pm).
CRICKET - Pakistan v England (SS2, 4am/6am/highlights 9pm); Australia v West Indies (SSX, 6am/SS1, 11.30pm).
RUGBY UNION - Saracens v Newcastle (SS2, 2.30pm, KO 3pm).
MOTOR SPORT - A1 GP (SS3, 6am).

MONDAY
FOOTBALL - Birmingham v Bolton (SS1, 7.30pm, KO 6pm).
CRICKET - Pakistan v England (SS2, 4.15am/6am/highlights 7.30pm); Australia v West Indies (SS1, 6am).

TUESDAY
FOOTBALL - Man United v Villarreal

WEDNESDAY
FOOTBALL - Anderlecht v Chelsea (SS2, 6pm, KO 7.45pm); Liverpool v Real Betis (SSX, 7.30pm, KO 7.45pm).
CRICKET - Pakistan v England (SS2, 4.15am/6am/highlights SS3, 8pm).

THURSDAY
FOOTBALL - Guimaraes v Bolton Wanderers (SS, 7.45pm, KO 8pm); AZ Alkmaar v Middlesbrough (ITV4, 5pm, KO 5.30pm); Marseille v Heerenveen (British Eurosport, 7.45pm).
CRICKET - Pakistan v England (SS2, 4.15am/highlights 8pm).
GRIDIRON - NFL (SSX, 5.30pm).

FRIDAY
FOOTBALL - Victory Shield (SS1, 7.30pm, KO 7.45pm).
CRICKET - Australia v West Indies (SS2, 12.30am & 6am).
RUGBY UNION - Bath v Leeds (SS2, 7.30pm).

FIVE FOR FUN

- 1 In September 2005, Gelfand headed the Premier Division in which country for the first time in their history?
 - 2 Which Australian golfer is nicknamed Popeye because of the size of his forearms?
 - 3 Which striker won 12 Scottish caps and played for Rangers, Leeds, Manchester City, Swansea and Rochdale?
 - 4 Which golfer from Northern Ireland, won the British Boys title at 15, played in the Walker Cup two years later, and in 1989 was the top money winner on the European Tour?
 - 5 Where did Wales play a football international for the first time in March 2000, against Finland?
- ANSWERS: See Page 53**

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RICKY PUNCH 'N JUDY SHOW



DOING IT IN STYLE:
 Hatton has sparred with awkward fighters

BOXING CLEVER with KEVIN FRANCIS

RICKY HATTON has had to pull a few strings in his training camp lately - by pulling in sparring partners who can fight like puppets!

Hatton faces the unorthodox Colombian Carlos Maussa at the Sheffield Arena a week tonight in a light-welterweight unification showdown.

And Hatton, 27, the unbeaten IBF king, admits it has been a headache trying to get his sparring partners to act like WBA champion Maussa.

He said: "It has been something of a nightmare because this guy has a very awkward style - like a puppet on a string!"

Marvel

"I saw him at close quarters when he defeated Vivian Harris to claim the title back in June and I got a first hand view of what to expect. Believe me, I am expecting to meet a really difficult character!"

And that's where problems arose for Hatton in his search for suitable sparring partners.

The Mancunian marvel explained: "It's difficult to get identical fighters to him because he has such a tricky kind of style. But I managed!"

"With most fighters, you have a good idea which way they are going to go from one movement to the next - but not with Maussa.

"That's why I say he looks like a puppet on a string, going this way and that. I will have to be at my best to make sure I keep on top of him."

But Hatton certainly believes he will be at his best for the fight, which will be screened live on Sky Box Office.

"Things have gone even better than they did in the camp during the build-up to the Kostya Tszyu fight," he declared.

☐ **JEFF 'Left Hook' Lacy** breezes into London on Monday for the formal announcement of his eagerly-awaited super-middleweight showdown with Joe Calzaghe.

☐ **EMAIL your views to:** kevin.francis@dailystar.co.uk

WIN tickets to see Sunderland v Blues

BARCLAYS PREMIERSHIP

YOU already get a real kick out of our fantastic footie pages - now here's another one... the chance to watch a brilliant Barclays Premiership game for free!

Your football-draft Daily Star has teamed up with our mates at Premiership title sponsors Barclays to give away a pair of tickets to a lucky reader every weekend of the season.

And what a sizzler we've got up for grabs next week when Sunderland take on Birmingham at the Stadium of Light. Both sides are fighting for their Premiership lives and desperately need all three points, so it's bound to be a cracker.

All you have to do to try and win a pair of tickets for the match is answer this simple question: **Who is the Sunderland manager?**

Now ring our hotline 0905 072 3963 leaving your answer, your name, address and a daytime telephone number, by NOON, Monday. Or you can text **PREMIER** followed by your answer, name and details, to 88833.

Calls cost 75p per minute from a BT landline and should last no more than 90 seconds. Texts cost £1.50 per message received plus your usual text tariff.

Winners will be selected at random from all entries received after midday each Monday on a weekly basis. Normal Daily Star rules apply.

SPORTWORD

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>ACROSS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. James, Everton and Scotland forward (8) 6. Beams of, winner of the Oaks in 1997 (5) 7. Quinell, Wales rugby forward, brother of Scott (5) 9. Cup, women's badminton world team trophy (4) 10. Rindt, Formula One world champion in 1970 (6) 12. Blackburn Rovers manager (6) 14. Newcastle United and Turkey midfielder (4) 17. Quinn, Arsenal, Man City, Sunderland and Eire striker (5) 18. Michael, German swimmer who won three Olympic gold medals (5) 19. Trevor, Manchester City and England footballer (8) | <p>DOWN</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Keith, Chester City boss (5) 3. Coomber, skeleton bobsleigh Olympic bronze medalist in 2002 (4) 4. Blackburn Rovers and Scotland striker (6) 5. Welsh rugby's All Blacks (5) 6. Yorkshire batsman, England cricket captain (7) 8. The, nickname of Arsenal (7) 11. Venue of the 1936 Summer Olympics (6) 13. Steven, Newcastle United, Watford, Hibernian and Scotland forward (5) 15. Venture, Grand National winner in 1987 (5) 16. Olsen, former Wimbledon and Norway manager (4) |
|---|--|

CALL 0905 072 3266 FOR TODAY'S SOLUTION. Calls cost 75p per min from a BT landline. Turn to Page 53 for yesterday's answers.



1-2-X CHECK

(3pm unless stated)
TODAY

- Barclays Premiership**
- 1 Charlton v Man Utd
 - 2 Chelsea v Newcastle
 - 3 Liverpool v Portsmouth
 - 4 Man City v Blackburn
 - 5 Sunderland v Aston Villa
 - 6 Tottenham v West Ham
- (Postponed - being played tomorrow)
- West Brom v Everton (5.15pm)
 - Wigan v Arsenal (12.45pm)
- Coca-Cola Championship**
- 7 Burnley v Leicester
 - 8 Coventry v Ipswich
 - 9 Crewe v Stoke
 - 10 Norwich v Luton
 - 11 Plymouth v QPR
 - 12 Preston v Cardiff
 - 13 Reading v Hull
 - 14 Sheff Utd v Millwall
 - 15 Southampton v Leeds
 - 16 Watford v Sheff Wed

Coca-Cola League One

- 17 Barnsley v Rotherham
 - 18 Brentford v Oldham
 - 19 Bristol City v Chesterfield
 - 20 Colchester v Blackpool
 - 21 Doncaster v Bournemouth
 - 22 Gillingham v Hartlepool
 - 23 Huddersfield v Bradford (12noon)
 - 24 Milton Keynes Dons v Walsal
 - 25 Nottm Forest v Southend
 - 26 Port Vale v Swindon
 - 27 Scunthorpe v Tranmere
- Coca-Cola League Two**
- 28 Barnet v Torquay
 - 29 Boston Utd v Notts County
 - 30 Bury v Rushden & D'monds
 - 31 Carlisle v Oxford Utd
 - 32 Leyton Orient v Stockport
 - 33 Macclesfield v Darlington
 - 34 Northampton v Bristol Rovers
 - 35 Rochdale v Chester
 - 36 Shrewsbury v Mansfield
 - 37 Wrexham v Peterborough
 - 38 Wycombe v Grimsby

Nationwide Conference

- Burton Albion v Crawley Town
- Cambridge Utd v Aldershot
- Canvey Island v Tamworth
- Dag & Red v Hereford
- Exeter v Grays Athletic
- Gravesend v Altrincham
- Kidderminster v York
- Scarborough v Stevenage
- Southport v Halifax
- Woking v Morecambe

Tennents Scottish Cup

- First Round**
- Alloa v Selkirk
 - Cowdenbeath v Morton
 - Dumfries v Forres Mechanics
 - Partick v Albion
 - Preston Ath v Greta
 - Spartans v Berwick
 - Stenhousemuir v East Stirling
 - Stirling v Elgin

Bank of Scotland Scottish Premier League

- 40 Aberdeen v Hearts
- (Postponed - being played tomorrow)
- Celtic v Rangers (12.30pm)
 - 41 Dundee Utd v Motherwell
 - 42 Inverness v Livingston
 - 43 Hibernian v Falkirk
 - 44 Kilmock v Inverness CT

Bell's Scottish First Division

- 45 Hamilton v Queen of South
- 46 Ross County v Dundee
- 47 St Johnstone v Clyde
- 48 St Mirren v Airdrie Utd
- 49 Stranraer v Brechin

Bell's Scottish Second Division

- Ayr v Forfar
- Nationwide North: Alfreton Town v Worcester, Barrow v Stafford Rangers, Droylsden v Wokington, Gainsborough v Lancaster City, Hednesford v Harrogate Town, Hinkley Utd v Hyde, Leigh RMI v Nuneaton, Northwich v Moor Green, Redditch v Worksoop, Stalybridge v Hucknall, Vauxhall Motors v Kettering.
- Nationwide South: Basingstoke v Yeading, Bishop's Cleeve v Havant and W. Bognor Regis Town v Thurrock, Cambridge City v Eastleigh, Dorchester v Carshalton Ath, Eastbourne Borough v Histon, Hayes v Weymouth, St Albans v Farnborough, Sutton Utd v Newport County, Welling v Lewes, Weston-S-Mare v Maidenhead Utd.

TOMORROW

- Barclays Premiership**
- Middlesbrough v Fulham (4pm)
 - Tottenham v West Ham (1pm)
- Coca-Cola Championship**
- Brighton v Crystal Palace (1.30pm)
- Bank of Scotland Premier League**
- Aberdeen v Hearts (2pm)

England strike it Richie

TWICKENHAM LINE-UPS

ENGLAND: Lewsey; Cueto, Noon, Tindall, Cohen; Hodgson, Dawson, Sheridan, Thompson, Vickery, Borthwick, Grewcock, Sanderson, Moody, Corry (capt).

NEW ZEALAND: Mullaina; Howlett, Umaga (capt), Mauger, Siviata; Carter, Kelleher; Woodcock, Mealamu, Hayman, Jack, Williams, Collins, Masoe, So'oialo.

Referee: A. Lewis (Ireland).

ENGLAND have received a massive boost ahead of their clash with New Zealand today after All Blacks flanker Richie McCaw pulled out with a head injury.

McCaw took a blow to the head in the Ireland game last week and, with a history of concussion, withdrew from the side as a precaution.

All Blacks head coach Graham Henry confirmed: "This is precautionary. Richie is close to being fit but we want to err on the side of caution. This is a very mature decision by him and he has put the team first."

"He has a history and has been through this before and there is no point in playing if he is not 100%. He is an experienced player who wants to do the right thing for the team and himself."

McCaw was forced to miss the second Test against England back in June 2004 with concussion following a heavy tackle from Mike Tindall in Dunedin. And

by DEAN WILSON

while England hope McCaw's health is taken care of they could not disguise their joy at seeing arguably the world's best flanker miss out.

Chris Masoe comes into the New Zealand side at No.7 and will have massive shoes to fill.

Tindall is only too aware of what sort of a player the All Blacks will be missing.

He said: "It is a big blow for the New Zealanders because he is the best back rower that they have produced in a long time."

Impress

"If we can hang on to the ball for long phases and starve them of possession then we'll have a good chance of winning."

"It will hit them but they are not lacking for strength in depth."

"I think Chris Masoe will be champing at the bit and want to impress."

"It will hurt them a little bit but I'm sure Masoe will step to the plate and put in a McCaw-like performance."

Tindall is also hoping England can take advantage of a fast, open game.

"Everyone says we're a bit boring but we still want to score and still want to grab tries as a backline," said Tindall.

"If it's a loose game I think it could suit us."



ON THE CHARGE: Mike Tindall surges forward with Australia's Chris Latham trying to stop him during England's win last Saturday

FITNESS TEST: Skipper Michael Vaughan in the Faisalabad nets yesterday



VAUGHAN 'N TRESOCKO IN TEST BOOST

by RODNEY WHITE in FAISALABAD

YEAH, but no, but yeah, but...

That must have been how discussions went at the selection meeting ahead of England's second Test against Pakistan tomorrow.

Skipper Michael Vaughan looks set to play after missing the 22-run defeat in Multan earlier this week.

But if he doesn't make it - and England want to leave a decision as late as possible - then Marcus Trescothick will again lead the side.

That's because he's decided to stay and play despite his father-in-law suffering serious head injuries in a fall from a ladder last weekend.

And just for good measure Ashley Giles will play despite a scare over a hip injury that forced him out of two Tests

SECOND TEST TEAMS

ENGLAND (from): Trescothick, Vaughan (capt), Strauss, Bell, Pietersen, Collingwood, Flintoff, Jones, Giles, Udal, Hoggard, Harmison, Anderson.

PAKISTAN (from): Butt, Malik, Younis Khan, Inzamam-ul-Haq (capt), Yousuf, Afridi, Akmal, Naved-ul-Hasan, Kaneria, Sami, Akhtar, Asif, M Ahmed.

against Bangladesh last summer. Coach Duncan Fletcher yesterday stopped short of confirming that Vaughan will definitely be fit to lead the side.

But he was delighted to reveal Trescothick's availability.

Great

He said: "Marcus is a world-class player, averaging more than 40, and he's in form."

"He's batting as well as he ever has so it's great news for us that he is staying here."

"Having missed Simon Jones to a degree on this tour, to miss another quality player would have been a

big problem for us." Paceman Jones missed the tour through injury but hopes to be fit for India.

But Fletcher is confident that Trescothick will be able to give his best on the pitch, despite his natural concerns for his father-in-law.

"When he got the news he was playing, it didn't seem to affect him, and it was more serious at that time," added Fletcher.

"It must have been quite a shock to him."

"He kept it to himself, went out there and played cricket and captained the side very well."

"He never looked as though there was a prob-

lem, and we hope he can adjust again when this Test match starts."

The coach also believes Vaughan, who took part in a strenuous work-out and net session with his team-mates at the ground yesterday morning, will be fit.

"I don't think you can ever be very, very confident. But he has had this knee problem before and got over it and played for some period of time with it."

"I thought we gave him quite a good test out there."

Concern

"He is keen to play. We'll just monitor it over the next couple of days."

Vaughan's longer-term prognosis remains a cause for concern.

"It's happened a couple of times before," said Fletcher. "It is just an injury you have to live with and keep playing if you can."

"From our point of view he is ready to play and he wants to play."

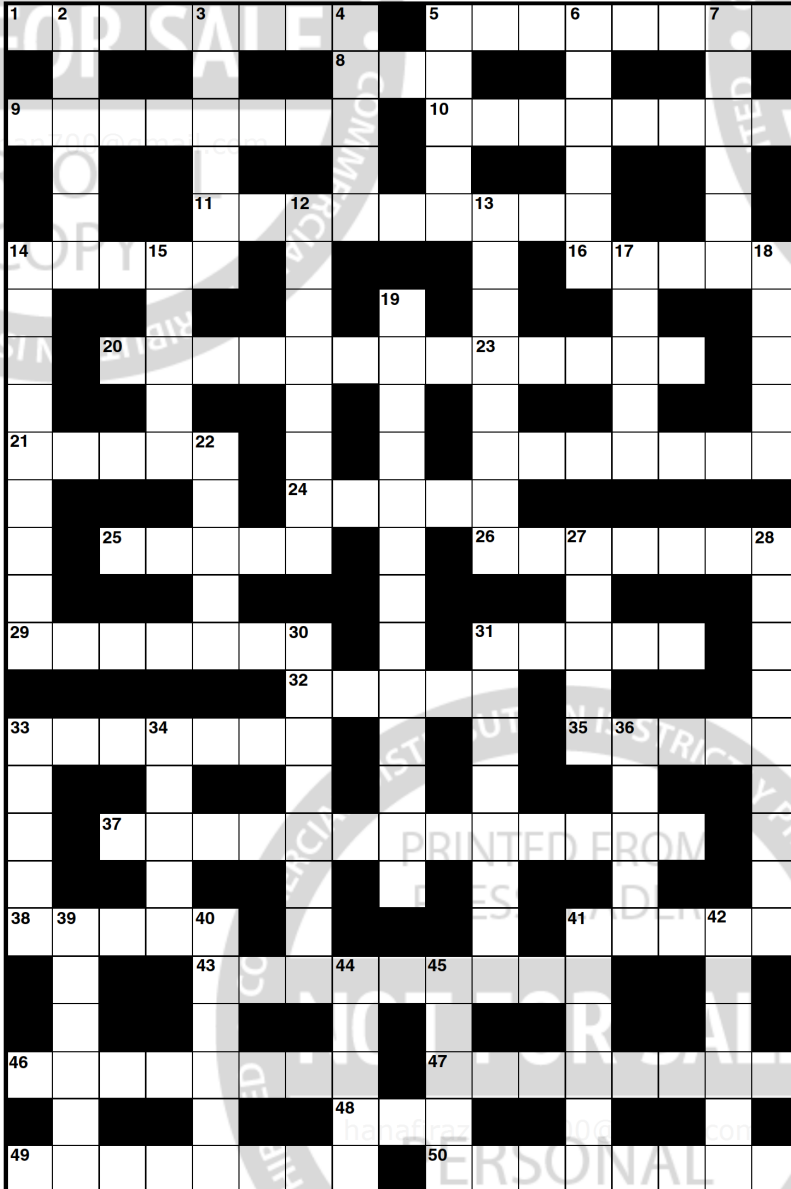
GIANT CROSSWORD

WIN £25

SEND your answers, name and address to: Giant Soccerword, Daily Star Sports Desk, 10 Lower Thames Street, London, EC3R 6EN. Entries by first post Friday. First correct one drawn will receive £25. Last week's winner was Brian Moore, of Bath.

ACROSS

- Swiss club who Martin Chivers joined from Spurs in 1976 (8)
- Scottish goalkeeper who made 291 League appearances 1978-90, mainly for Carlisle, Brentford and Derby (8)
- Cyril ... Leyton Orient and Ipswich wing-half capped twice by Wales 1964-65 (3)
- FA Cup finalists in 2004 (8)
- Midfielder whose clubs included Fulham, 14 down and Aston Villa, capped 73 times by Eire 1986-97 (8)
- Swindon, Manchester City, Burnley and England forward who managed Stockport County 1978-79 (9)
- Neill, Blackburn and Australia defender (5)
- Park, home of Stranraer (5)
- Wanderers, League Cup winners in 1974 and 1980 (13)
- Vega, Spurs, Celtic, Watford and Switzerland defender (5)
- Des Brighton player who made 400 League appearances 1948-59 (7)
- Inter Milan and Italy goalkeeper (5)
- Adrian England under-21 forward who made 535 League appearances 1979-96, mainly for Everton and Burnley (5)
- Adam Preston's former Blackpool, West Ham and Nottingham Forest midfielder (7)
- Mick forward who won an FA Cup winners medal in 1978 as an Ipswich substitute (7)
- Club from whom Arsenal signed Pascal Cygan in 2002 (5)
- Gil Newport County, Sheffield United, Cardiff and Swansea forward, capped 29 times by Wales 1965-75 (5)
- Premiership champions in England in 2005 (7)
- Malbranque, Fulham player (5)
- Chesterfield's former England under-21 goalkeeper (4,9)
- Dickson Preston midfielder (5)
- Chris Blackpool, Hartlepool, Huddersfield and Rochdale midfielder, who made 279 League appearances 1993-2004 (5)
- England wing-half, manager of Manchester City's 1968 Football League championship winning team (3,6)
- Tore Norway forward who joined Rangers from 33 across in 2000 (5,3)
- Manager of Blackburn Rovers when they won 1995 Premiership (8)
- Matthews, Coventry City, 33 across and Derby goalkeeper, capped five times by England in 1956 (3)
- John half-back who captained Falkirk's 1957 Scottish Cup winning team, and later managed the club and Dundee (8)
- Freddy Southampton striker (8)



- ances 1961-75 (5)
- Kevin Southend United midfielder (5)
- The nickname of Crystal Palace (6)
- John Australia striker who joined Coventry from Portsmouth in 1998 (6)
- Billy Manchester City and Manchester United winger capped 48 times by Wales 1895-1920 (8)
- New name by which Gillingham were known 1893-1913 (8)
- European Champions' League 2005 winners (9)
- Junior Bristol Rovers striker (5)
- Andy England under-21 defender, who won FA Cup winners medal with Wimbledon in 1988 (5)
- Leo Oxford defender whose previous clubs include Southampton and Brentford (5)
- Arsenal, Derby and Southampton player

- capped once by England in 1976 (7,6)
- Cooper, Gillingham manager (5)
- Peter Nottingham Forest, Southampton, 9 across and Leyton Orient goalkeeper, who made 349 League appearances 1975-89 (5)
- Future England defender who captained Leicester City's 1969 FA Cup final team (5,4)
- Rovers, Worthington Cup final-

- ists in 2000 (8)
- Sunderland's former Liverpool and France under-21 forward (2,6)
- Chester manager (5)
- Mike future Cambridge United player who made 313 League appearances for QPR 1964-78 (5)
- Emerson Derby County's on-loan Wigan defender (5)
- Graham Shrewsbury, Aston Villa and 20 across manager (6)

- Doza, Hungarian club who were European Fairs Cup finalists in 1969 (6)
- Mark striker who played in FA Cup Finals for Crystal Palace and Sheffield Wednesday (6)
- 33 across and Argentina striker (6)
- Ronnie Oldham Athletic manager (5)
- John Huddersfield and Carlisle inside-forward who managed Port Vale 1984-99 (5)

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1 Peterborough, 8 Death, 9 Ramsden, 10 Moss Rose, 11 Arne, 13 Kevin Beattie, 16 Benito, 17 McAlle, 19 Albania, 20 Power, 22 Dyer, 24 Stirling, 26 South, 27 Kerr, 29 Peach, 32 Omar, 33 Kavanagh, 34 Sidwell, 36 Total, 38 Diarra, 39 Bridge, 42 Luis Boa Morte, 44 Ray Brady, 46 Shea, 48 Bruce, 49 Mabbutt, 50 Milton Keynes.

DOWN: 2 Evans, 3 Etherington, 4 Bardsley, 5 Roma, 6 Underhill, 7 Hansen, 12 Stockport, 14 Venables, 15 Weir, 18 Raith, 19 Ards, 21 White Hart, 23 Roger, 24 Stack, 25 Garth, 28 Dons, 29 Pandiani, 30 Halls, 31 Patterson, 35 Earl Barrett, 37 Leek, 40 Ditchburn, 41 Hardyman, 43 Santos, 45 Youri, 47 Ebbe.

FOOTBALL TRIVIA

Compiled by ALEX MURPHY



KNOW YOUR GEOGRAPHY: Which countries do Joseph Yobo (left) and Kolo Toure come from?



ON THIS DAY

On November 19 in ...
1 ... 1969, who scored the 1,000th goal of his career, for Brazilian club Santos v Vasco da Gama?
2 ... 1975, which Newcastle centre-forward made his last England appearance in a 1-1 draw away to Portugal?
3 ... 1997, which Swiss coach took over as Spurs boss?
4 ... 2000, which non-League side forced a 4-4 draw at home to Port Vale in an FA Cup first round tie?
5 ... 2001, which London teams battled to a 4-4 draw in the Premiership?

GIVE US AN H

All these begin with H
1 Championship club nicknamed The Tigers.
2 Leeds keeper won 16 Scotland caps from 1973-74.
3 Liverpool and Minnesota Kicks winger played 34 times for Ireland from 1971-82.
4 Lost 4-0 to England at Euro 96.
5 Play at New Douglas Park.

ENGLAND'S BEST

Name the Players' Player of the Year
1 1995, Blackburn and England striker
2 1996, Newcastle and England striker
3 1997, Newcastle and England striker
4 1998, Arsenal and Holland striker
5 1999, Spurs and France winger

INTERNATIONAL STALWARTS

For which countries did these players make over 100 appearances?
1 Cobi Jones
2 Hector Chumpitaz
3 Jurgen Klinsmann
4 Oleg Blokhin
5 Peter Schmeichel

WORLD CONTENDERS

Which of these countries will make their World Cup finals debuts in 2006?
1 Angola or Iran
2 Ghana or Tunisia
3 Paraguay or Togo
4 Croatia or Serbia and Montenegro
5 Ukraine or USA

LGE CUP LANDMARKS

1 Which London team thrashed Bury 10-0 in a second round second leg tie in 1983-84?
2 Which late Football League secretary is the Final's man of the match award named after?
3 In 1985 who became the only team ever to win the League Cup and suffer relegation in the same season?
4 Which team has won the League Cup a record seven times?
5 Who is the only player ever to score in all his team's matches all the way to the Final, for West Brom in 1965-66?

KINGS OF CONTINENT

Which of these clubs have NEVER won a major European trophy?
1 Aberdeen or Hibernian.
2 Arsenal or QPR.
3 Bolton or Everton.
4 Ipswich or Norwich.
5 Newcastle or Sunderland.

OUT OF AFRICA

In which countries were these Premiership stars born?
1 El-Hadji Diouf (Bolton)
2 Geremi (Chelsea)
3 Joseph Yobo (Everton)
4 Kolo Toure (Arsenal)
5 Quinton Fortune (Man United)

WEMBLEY WONDERS

Which teams won these European Cup finals in England?
1 1968, beat Benfica 4-1
2 1971, beat Panathinaikos 2-0
3 1978, beat Brugge 1-0
4 1992, beat Sampdoria 1-0
5 2003, beat Juventus on pens

BACKROOM BOYS

At which clubs would you find these ex-players on the coaching staff?
1 Mark Bowen
2 Nigel Pearson
3 Pat Rice
4 Roy Aitken
5 Sammy Lee

ANSWERS

- 5 David Ghinola
4 Bolton
3 Alan Shearer
2 Les Ferdinand
1 Alan Shearer
BEST
1 Alan Shearer
2 Les Ferdinand
3 Alan Shearer
4 Bolton
5 David Ghinola
LANDMARKS
1 Arsenal
2 Tottenham
3 Liverpool
4 Manchester United
5 Chelsea
LEAGUE CUP
1 Arsenal
2 Tottenham
3 Liverpool
4 Manchester United
5 Chelsea
WEMBLEY WONDERS
1 Arsenal
2 Tottenham
3 Liverpool
4 Manchester United
5 Chelsea
KINGS OF THE CONTINENT
1 Arsenal
2 Tottenham
3 Liverpool
4 Manchester United
5 Chelsea
BOYS
1 Arsenal
2 Tottenham
3 Liverpool
4 Manchester United
5 Chelsea
WORLD CONTENDERS
1 Angola
2 Ghana
3 Tunisia
4 Croatia
5 Serbia and Montenegro
OUT OF AFRICA
1 El-Hadji Diouf
2 Geremi
3 Joseph Yobo
4 Kolo Toure
5 Quinton Fortune

GONE FISHIN' with RICHARD LEE



A NEW wave of carp fishery is soon to hit the country... and here's proof that you'll want to be part of it! I banked this 29lb mirror during a sneak afternoon preview at The Avenue lake in Shropshire – a special water where 'exclusivity' is the name of the game. Creator Rob Hales told me: "Many anglers now want the chance to escape from busy day ticket waters and The Avenue is the answer. Just buy it for a week and you get the keys to the place to fish in total peace and quiet."

Alan's key to loch joy

PIKE anglers are celebrating this week following the shock capture of a monster 41lb 2oz specimen from a secret Scottish loch.

Landed by Kirkcudbright's Alan McFayden, the predator was part of a sensational six-fish haul which slammed the scales down to an impressive 173lb.

On day one McFayden connected with fish of 27lb and 27lb 12oz before returning 24 hours later to bank pike of 23lb, 26lb 4oz and 28lb – topped by the fabulous 40.

He said: "It was a dream come true to catch such a huge fish. I was in a state of shock and literally in tears as I slipped the fish back."

HOT SPOTS

CHESHIRE FISHING.

Tattenhall: Corn and meat over pellet producing hauls to 50lb from Pool 1.

FIR TREE FISHERY.

Applby Bridge: Top catch featured 12 doubles to 16lb – best sport when floodlights are turned on.

FURNACE MILL, Wyre Forest.

Wets: Nets to 50lb possible on soft expander pellets presented on pole.

MOORLANDS FARM.

Kidderminster: Catches to 50lb possible on pellet but red maggot also scoring.

IVY HOUSE LAKES.

Grittenham, Wilt: A recent stocking of 1,000lb of carp has seen an upturn in action with worm and caster worth a try.

McFayden took the predators on a brand new distance-casting rod after presenting a lamprey bait at 100 yards, at the edge of a weedbed.

IT was a roach riot for a trio of holidaying anglers when they banked 480lb of silverfish in just five hours.

Fast

Fishing Ireland's River Inney, Bradford bagger Andrew Burnett, his father Shaun and friend Craig shared in a staggering day's sport.

"It was unbelievable fishing, we just couldn't catch fast enough," said Andrew.

GB v NEW ZEALAND: Strike it Rich



HORNE WON'T BLOW CHANCE



FEELING AT HOME: Richard Horne is one of a trio of Hull stars who will play at the KC Stadium

RICHARD HORNE will plug into the powerful charge that only a Hull crowd can provide as he prepares for the game of his life tonight.

The hometown boy is one of three Hull players in a Great Britain team trying to scale rugby league's Everest – by beating Australia when it really matters.

It's the black and whites' biggest representation since 1991 when Paul Eastwood, Andy Dannatt and Lee Jackson played in the Lions' 60-4 hammering of France at Headingley.

But this is Australia who are ruthless when their crown is threatened – one look at last year's 44-4 Tri Nations final humiliation of Britain tells you that.

Excited

The Lions need to beat the holders by at least three points to go back to Elland Road and Horne, together with Hull team-mates Jamie Thackray and Gareth Raynor is excited by international football's ultimate challenge at the KC Stadium.

The Aussies pulled off a somewhat flattering 20-6 win over the Lions at rain-lashed Wigan two weeks ago.

And Horne, who was recalled for the big victory over New Zealand last Saturday after missing last year's series with a fractured cheekbone, thinks Britain are in with a decent chance.

The Challenge Cup winner, who will replace injured Paul Deacon at scrum-half, said: "It will give me

■ by MARTIN RICHARDS

the biggest buzz to walk out with the other Hull boys ready to put in the performance of your life.

"You couldn't have scripted it better. It's going to be a very special occasion for myself, Jamie and Gareth."

"We all know how a KC Stadium crowd can lift a side and the atmosphere will be fantastic."

"The emotion will be there and we now have to take the skill factor we showed against the Kiwis to a new level."

"Defensively, the Aussies will be a lot smarter and fitter than the Kiwis, who are more of a power team."

"The Aussies are an all-round threat, especially on the fringes."

"Matt Cooper and Mark Gasnier are two great centres and that's going to be an area where we have to make sure we are tight on."

TEAMS

GREAT BRITAIN: Pryce, Carney, Gleeson, Senior, Raynor, Harris, Horne, Fielden, Cunningham, Morley, Peacock (capt), Johnson, Ellis. Subs: Sinfield or Gilmour, Higham, Walker, Thackray.

AUSTRALIA: Minichiello, King, Gasnier, Cooper, Tate, Barrett, Gower, Cironceva, Buderus (capt), Ryles, O'Donnell, Fitzpatrick, Kennedy, Subb, Prince or Wing, Waterhouse, O'Malley, Mason. **KICK TIMES:** Sky Sports 1, 6pm, TV-off 6.15pm.

HOW THEY STAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Australia...	2	0	1	75	70	4	
New Zealand...	4	2	0	2	115	120	4
Great Britain...	3	1	0	2	70	74	2

Blow

"We'll have to be on top of our game."

"Losing Darren Lockyer to injury is a big blow for them because I thought he was the difference between the two sides a fortnight ago."

"But his replacement Trent Barrett is a great player who has been waiting for his chance."

"It's do or die for us. We need the win and there are no second chances. It's like a play-off game."

Horne is thrilled for Thackray after his impressive form against the Aussies and the Kiwis.

He said: "We were all waiting to see what he'd do against the big Kiwi pack but he was soon bumping them out of the way."

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Facts are keys to car prize

HIT the highway to trivia heaven with Nobby's Crisps and win a car.

Our brilliant Nobby's Knows column has been pumping out great pub knowledge – and now there's one last chance to get your hands on a new motor by sending in your facts.

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enter you in our draw for the last great Honda Type R – or you can solve our Number Cruncher questions every day next week in Nobby's Knows for another chance of grabbing the prize.

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Here are some more crazy driving facts to wheely get you in the mood...

Topless Fact

Amazingly there are three times

more soft top cars sold in the UK than hotter countries like France or Italy. We're obviously a tough lot.

On Your Bike

In Tokyo, a bicycle is faster than a car for most trips of less than 50 minutes!

Smallest Car

The world's smallest ever car was the British PeelP50 – just 53 inches long, 39 inches wide, and 53 inches high. It was smaller than an

average fairground bumper car. Good for parking in a tight spot. But, without a reverse gear, not so good for getting out of it again.

Wight Off

The Isle of Wight has the oldest cars in Britain – at an average of 8.5 years.

Caught Short

Inventors Barbara May and James Shippen invented an in car toilet for the boot of a car with an inflatable hood for privacy, powered by a lead to the cigarette lighter.

Not a good idea for the driver to use it in transit though we'd have thought.

Keep sending in your best fact or titbit of trivia simply text TRIVIA to 88833 or email us – competition@dailystar.co.uk with NEWS FOR NOBBY'S as the subject header. You can also enter your trivia by following Nobby's link on www.dailystar.co.uk and watch out for Nobby's Knows – the great column appearing every weekday, only in the Daily Star.



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Sparky's call-up plea



HUGHES: Hit by international calls

MARK HUGHES wants Premiership chiefs to allow clubs to delay fixtures by 24 hours following international games.

Hughes's Blackburn side face Manchester City after seven first-teamers have been on international duty this week.

And Australian duo Brett Emerton and Lucas Neill will not even be back in the country when Blackburn kick-off at City this afternoon.

They were in the Australian squad which beat Uruguay in a penalty shoot-out in Sydney on Wednesday to qualify for the World Cup finals.

FIFA rules allow clubs to rearrange games five days ahead of international fixtures.

by MARK OGDEN

And Hughes is now calling for a similar rule to be applied after international games.

Said Sparky: "A lot of my players have been away this week and, from my point of view, the timing of games after internationals needs looking at."

Timing

"When clubs play in Europe on a Thursday, they are given special dispensation to move their Premiership game back to the Sunday. But for some reason, that doesn't happen when you have a lot of players coming back from international duty."

"Craig Bellamy has played in

Cyprus, Aaron Mokoena has been to South Africa, Zurab Khizanishvili has played for Georgia and Morten Gamst Pedersen and Vratislav Gresko have been involved with Norway and Slovakia.

"I don't think City have had any players away this week."

Hughes last night denied he is ready to launch a January bid for Celtic's Stilian Petrov despite being linked with a £3m offer for the Bulgarian captain.

The Rovers boss watched the midfielder score a hat-trick in Celtic's 5-0 win over Motherwell last month.

But Hughes said: "People have read a little bit too much into that."

BEATT WILL FIT THE BILL

By CHRIS HARPER

A FIT James Beattie will bang in the goals for Everton, insists Alan Irvine. Boss David Moyes' No 2, who discovered the striker for Blackburn and is back in harness with him on Merseyside, predicts a bright future for the 27-year-old, who has become a forgotten England man since Sven Goran Eriksson gave him four caps.

"Three goals in five starts is a terrific return and if we can get him on the pitch he will score goals," said Irvine. But Irvine accepts Beattie has struggled for fitness and form since his £7m transfer.

Irvine expects him to hit the target again against West Brom tonight and added: "I've known him since he was a schoolboy and he scored goals then. The return he has for us has been good but unfortunately the number of games hasn't."

PEARCE'S NEW CITY IS DUNNE TO A TURN

RICHARD DUNNE has made it clear 'Big Time Charlies' are no longer welcome at Manchester City.

The Republic of Ireland defender insists there has been a major cultural shift since Stuart Pearce succeeded Kevin Keegan as the man in charge.

And Dunne, who has been one of the main beneficiaries of Pearce's new-look regime, has made it clear there is no turning back.

The team ethic is everything at City these days - on and off the pitch.

The fact that Pearce's players were crawling through woods in the Peak District on a bonding exercise underlines there is no place for fragile egos.

That is in contrast to the Keegan years when the former boss was accused of pandering to superstar mentality of the likes of Nicolas Anelka at the expense of his squad's foot soldiers.

The centre-back believes Pearce's ethos will influence who arrives in the January transfer window. Dunne said: "Everyone realises we've got a fairly thin squad."

Honest

"We hope he can strengthen in January and then there won't be any problems."

"The manager knows himself they have got to be good players but also ones who will integrate with the squad we have here."

"There are no Big Time Charlies here now."

"Everyone is hard working and honest so that is the way the manager picks his players."

"I don't think it was Kevin's fault but the players remember his philoso-



DUNNE: No 'Big Time Charlies'

by IAN WINROW

phy was always gung-ho. Everyone spoke about it and I suppose the players started to believe it eventually. Everyone wanted to score a goal and it left gaps in different spaces and that was just a lack of discipline.

"But everyone knows their job in this team and everyone sticks to the same plan, does their own job and whoever is up there will score the goals."

Dunne's solid partnership with Sylvain Distin has been the foundation of City's rise to seventh spot.

And he cannot believe his team-mate has been overlooked for an interna-

tional call-up by France, adding: "The way he has performed over the last 18 months he definitely merits a place in their squad. "Consistently, he has been outstanding. I don't think he has made a mistake for three or four years. He's been brilliant."

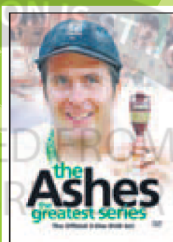
Bonus

"I suppose he's disappointed he's not in but he never lets it show."

"He's always in good spirits and he's always happy to be at this club."

"The French thing would be a bonus for him not a necessity. But obviously he is a Frenchman and he would love to play for his country at the World Cup."

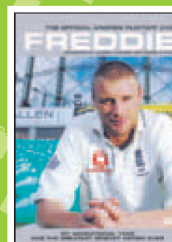
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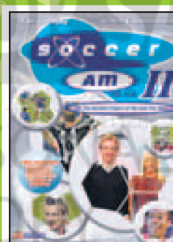
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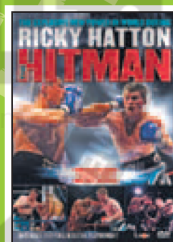
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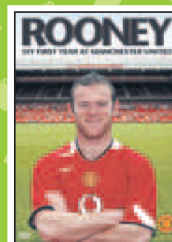
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TEAMTALK

BURNLEY V LEICESTER

CLARETS manager Steve Cottrell has doubts over Graham Branch (knee) and Mike Duff (calf). Lee Grant will start in goal after joining on loan from Derby as cover for Brian Jensen (ban). LEICESTER welcome back midfielder Joey Gudjonsson and striker Mark de Vries from suspension. **LAST SEASON:** Burnley 0 Leicester 0, Leicester 0 Burnley 0. **LAST FIVE MATCHES:** Burnley WLWWW; Leicester WLWDD. **REF:** M Messias (S Yrks)

COVENTRY V IPSWICH

STRIKER Dele Adebola is expected to return to the Coventry line-up after recovering from a virus and Micky Doyle is pushing for a recall after suspension. KEVIN HORLOCK (ban) and Owen Garvan (ankle) are missing for Ipswich, but new loan signing Gavin Williams should feature. **LAST SEASON:** Ipswich 3 Coventry 2, Coventry 1 Ipswich 2. **LAST FIVE MATCHES:** Coventry DLWLD; Ipswich DLDWW. **REF:** G Salisbury (Lancashire)

CREWE V STOKE

CREWE manager Dario Gradi is nearing a clean bill of health - Ben Williams has shaken off a minor knee problem, leaving Ross Turnbull (knee) as the only absentee. STOKE boss Johan Boskamp hopes Sambegou Bangoura returns from international duty with Guinea in time to play. **LAST SEASON:** Crewe 0 Stoke 2, Stoke 1 Crewe 0. **LAST FIVE MATCHES:** Crewe LLDWW; Stoke WLLWW. **REF:** D Gallagher (Oxlds)

NORWICH V LUTON

NORWICH manager Nigel Worthington will draft loan defender David Wright straight into his squad, with full-back Matty Louis-Jean (hamstring) out. KEVIN NICHOLLS and Steve Robinson are due to return to the Luton team after foot and heel injuries respectively but Chris Coyne (hamstring) and Sol Davis (knee) are still likely to be out. **LAST SEASON:** No game. **LAST FIVE MATCHES:** Norwich LLLWL; Luton WDLWL. **REF:** K Wright (Camsb)

PLYMOUTH V QPR

PLYMOUTH manager Tony Pulis is sweating over the fitness of Akos Buzsaky (groin), but Argyle are boosted by the return from international duty of Tony Capaldi. MARTIN ROWLANDS could make his first start since August 13 after knee problems. Dean Sturridge (hamstring) will also miss out. **LAST SEASON:** Plymouth 2 QPR 1, QPR 3 Plymouth 2. **LAST FIVE MATCHES:** Plymouth DDDLL; QPR DWLWL. **REF:** S Tanner (Somerset)

PRESTON V CARDIFF

ADAM NOWLAND (groin), Brian O'Neil (thigh), Lewis Neal (knee) and Dave Jones (dead leg) return for Preston, while David Nugent (illness) and Danny Dichio (back) are also available. CARDIFF striker Michael Ricketts will return to fill in for Cameron Jerome (ban). **LAST SEASON:** Preston 3 Cardiff 0, Cardiff 0 Preston 1. **LAST FIVE MATCHES:** Preston DDDWD; Cardiff WDLWD. **REF:** R Beeby (Northamptonshire)

READING V HULL

READING boss Steve Coppell is set to recall Leroy Lita, despite the striker being short of match fitness after a bruised shin, with Dave Kitson banned. BILLY PAYNTER will make his Hull debut at the expense of Chris Brown. Roland Edge (groin) and Andy Dawson (hamstring) are set to miss out along with midfielder Keith Andrews (ankle). **LAST SEASON:** No game. **LAST FIVE MATCHES:** Reading DWDWW; Hull DWLLL. **REF:** C Penton (Sussex)



SHIPPERLEY: Boost

SHEFF UTD V MILLWALL

BLADES boss Neil Warnock expects Neil Shipperley to shrug off illness in time to play. LILIAN NALIS has returned from a spell at Coventry and could be included. THE Lions are without Matt Lawrence (foot) and Mark Phillips (groin), while Andy Williams (hamstring) and Jamie Vincent (calf) are doubts. **LAST SEASON:** Sheff Utd 0 Millwall 1, Millwall 1 Sheff Utd 2. **LAST FIVE MATCHES:** Sheff Utd WDDWW; Millwall LLDLL. **REF:** M Clattenburg (Co Durham)

SOUTHAMPTON V LEEDS

SAINTS boss Harry Redknapp welcomes back Tomasz Hajto after a hamstring injury. Redknapp has no new injury concerns. MIDFIELDER Gylfi Einarsson has been ruled out after dislocating his shoulder, but Northern Ireland international David Healy (ankle) is expected to make the starting line-up. **LAST SEASON:** No game. **LAST FIVE MATCHES:** Southampton DLWWD; Leeds WDDLD. **REF:** I Williamson (Berkshire)

WATFORD V SHEFF WED

WATFORD manager Adrian Boothroyd is likely to keep faith with the team that won 2-1 at Hull before the international break. Dominik Bizzard (virus) is the only absentee. LEE BULLEN is hoping to shake-off a hamstring injury in time to make his first start of the season for the Owls, with Frank Simek suspended. **LAST SEASON:** No game. **LAST FIVE MATCHES:** Watford DWWWW; Sheff Wed DWLWL. **REF:** P Crossley (Kent)

BRIGHTON V C PALACE TOMORROW

BRIGHTON hope to welcome back Charlie Oatway (neck) and Albert Jarrett (foot), but Richard Carpenter (foot) is out and Paul McShane is banned. TONY POPOVIC (calf) may return for Palace, while Danny Butterfield (groin) could be fit. Andrew Johnson Jon Macken, Aki Riihilahti and Danny Granville are still out injured. **LAST SEASON:** No game. **LAST FIVE MATCHES:** Brighton WDDDL; Crystal Palace WLWDL. **REF:** M Fletcher (Worcs)

SERIOUSLY football

Sheri set to shoot down old

TEDDY CAN



SPURRED ON: Sheri with Elliott Ward yesterday

ALAN PARDEW has backed veteran striker Teddy Sheringham to continue his sensational form by shooting down former club Tottenham tomorrow.

The 39-year-old former England star was a hero during two spells at White Hart Lane but will now be looking to put the skids under their Champions League hopes.

Pardey has been delighted with Sheri's form this season and has hinted he will be looking to prolong his career.

But first his aim will be to help the Hammers take another three points and leapfrog Spurs in the Premiership table.

Pardey said: "We have rested Teddy. He has only started two away games and the international break has helped."

Beast

"He looks in good shape. Just knowing the beast, he doesn't need to give me any signals. It brings out the best in him."

"If you look at his career you would have to say he comes alive in the big games. There will be no more goad up and motivated against Spurs."

Sheringham, who has four goals this season, will be 40 before the season is out and Pardey has yet to decide whether he can last a further 12 months.

He said: "If you took away the age and forget about it and just looked at his condition, you would say there is no problem."

"He hardly misses any training apart from the days off we make sure he

■ by ALISTAIR GRANT

takes. His performances have been terrific this year and I think he'll want to go on for another year."

Spurs boss Martin Jol has challenged his golden generation to become 120m men and catapult Spurs into the top four.

Jol is proud of his five England aces - Paul Robinson, Ledley King, Jermain Defoe, Jermaine Jenas and Michael Carrick.

Only keeper Robinson is a regular so Jol has urged the others to match him - and bring the good times back to White Hart Lane.

Jol said: "We have five with England and another five in the Under-21s - and that's a good sign."

"But if we have four in the starting 11 then we're really getting somewhere."

"Everyone recognises we're a very talented club."

Jol is backing Defoe to do well when he faces the team he walked out on for £7m two years ago. "He'll be fine and hopefully thrive on it," said Jol.

TEAMTALK

BARNESLEY V ROTHERHAM

BARNESLEY will be without suspended pair Brian Howard and Antony Kay, but Paul Reid (hamstring) returns to the squad. MICHAEL KEANE (stomach) and Barry Conlon (knee) miss out for Rotherham.

BRENTFORD V OLDHAM

DEFENDER Sam Sodje and striker Lloyd Owusu are both doubtful for Brentford after picking up knocks this week. LATICS boss Ronnie Moore has no new injury or suspension problems.

BRISTOL CITY V CHESTERFIELD

MARCUS STEWART will play for Rovers despite being linked with Millwall, but Alex Russell faces a late fitness test. ON-LOAN Sammy Clingan returns for the Spirettes having been refused permission to play in the FA Cup.

COLCHESTER V BLACKPOOL

JAMIE CURETON should be available for Colchester having trained this week following a slight knee strain. BLACKPOOL caretaker-manager Simon Grayson will hand on-loan Blackburn midfielder Gary Harkins his debut.

DONCASTER V BOURNEMOUTH

STEVE ROBERTS, Neil Roberts, Adam Hughes and Sean Thornton are pushing for starts for Doncaster, but Simon Marples (hamstring) could miss out. STRIKER James Keene has been struggling with a virus for the Cherries.

GILLINGHAM V HARTLEPOOL

GILLS caretaker boss Ronnie Jepson may recall Darren Byfield (knee) in a bid to solve his side's goalscoring problems. TEENAGE striker Dean McDonald is in line for his Pools debut and Micky Barron (thigh) could return.

HUDDERSFIELD V BRADFORD

HUDDESFIELD will be without banned Mark Hudson but Chris Brandon (knee) will be included in the squad. MARC BRIDGE-WILKINSON (knee) could return after 10 weeks out, but Bobby Petta is doubtful with a throat infection.

MK DONS V WALSALL

ON-LOAN Pablo Mills and Stephen Quinn return for the Dons, but Clive Platt and Mark Ricketts have picked up knocks. WALSALL defender Craig Pead is suspended and player-boss Paul Merson (groin) is out.

NOTTM FOREST V SOUTHEND

NEW recruit Nathan Tyson is expected to make his Forest debut, but Gary Holt (concussion) is doubtful. SOUTHEND midfielder Luke Guttridge (hamstring) is out meaning Mark Bentley or Jay Smith will come in.

PORT VALE V SWINDON

VALE'S Trinidad & Tobago hero Chris Birchall has not returned from World Cup duty and Danny Somner is doubtful with a knee injury. TOWN'S Stefani Miglioranza (dead leg) is a doubt, while keeper Tom Heaton is banned.

SCUNTHORPE V TRANMERE

SCUNTHORPE hope to have Peter Beagrie (hamstring) and Peter Till (ankle) available, while Andy Crosby returns from a ban. MARK RANKINE is suspended for Rovers and Steve Davies (knee) will not be risked.

pals as he chases another year at top

GIVE PARD A BIG SPUR

TABLES

Barclays Premiership

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chelsea	12	10	1	1	28	7	31
Wigan	11	8	1	2	13	5	25
Bolton	12	7	2	3	14	11	23
Man Utd	11	6	3	2	16	11	21
Arsenal	11	6	2	3	16	8	20
Tottenham	12	5	5	2	13	8	20
Man City	12	6	2	4	15	11	20
Charlton	11	6	1	4	16	14	19
West Ham	11	5	3	3	15	10	18
Newcastle	12	3	7	2	12	10	18
Blackburn	12	5	2	5	15	15	17
Liverpool	10	4	2	4	9	8	16
Middlesboro	12	4	3	5	15	16	15
Fulham	12	3	3	6	12	16	12
Portsmouth	12	4	6	1	15	10	12
Everton	11	3	1	7	4	12	10
A Villa	12	2	7	3	11	12	9
West Brom	12	2	2	8	9	22	8
Birmingham	12	1	3	8	7	17	6
Sunderland	12	1	2	9	11	24	5

Coca-Cola Championship

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sheff Utd	18	14	2	2	38	15	44
Reading	18	12	5	1	30	10	41
Watford	18	9	5	4	31	21	32
Wolves	17	7	6	4	26	18	28
Luton	18	8	4	6	27	25	28
Cardiff	18	7	6	5	28	20	27
Leeds	17	7	4	19	15	27	27
Southampton	17	5	10	2	19	13	25
Burnley	18	4	7	7	26	23	25
Stoke	18	8	1	9	20	25	25
Crystal Palace	18	7	3	8	26	18	24
QPR	18	6	6	6	20	27	24
Ipswich	18	6	5	7	21	27	23
Preston	18	10	19	19	22	22	22
Leicester	17	4	8	5	16	18	20
Norwich	18	5	4	9	17	24	19
Sheff Wed	18	7	6	5	18	23	19
Crewe	18	4	7	7	21	32	19
Derby	18	4	6	8	14	19	18
Hull	18	4	6	8	14	19	18
Coventry	18	3	8	7	21	28	17
Brighton	18	2	6	17	17	16	16
Plymouth	17	3	7	7	13	22	16
Millwall	18	6	5	7	13	22	16

Coca-Cola League One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Swansea	18	11	4	3	41	21	37
Huddersfield	17	10	3	4	32	23	34
Southend	17	10	3	4	32	19	33
Brentford	17	8	5	4	21	15	29
Chesham	17	9	1	7	29	27	28
Barnsley	17	7	5	5	21	16	26
Scunthorpe	17	7	5	5	21	16	26
Bradford	17	6	6	5	20	17	24
Nottm Forest	17	7	3	7	21	20	24
Walsley	17	6	6	5	19	17	24
Colchester	17	6	5	6	19	24	23
Walsley	17	6	5	6	25	23	23
Hartlepool	17	6	5	6	21	23	23
Doncaster	17	6	3	8	18	19	21
Oldham	17	6	3	8	20	29	21
Blackpool	17	6	3	8	20	29	21
Rotherham	17	4	6	7	20	21	18
MK Dons	17	4	5	8	18	21	18
Tranmere	17	4	5	8	17	19	17
Gillingham	17	4	5	8	13	14	17
Swindon	17	3	4	10	18	26	13

Coca-Cola League Two

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leyton Orient	17	9	5	3	26	21	32
Grimsby	17	9	4	4	24	11	31
Wycombe	17	9	3	5	19	17	31
Rochdale	17	9	2	6	22	22	29
Accrington	17	8	3	6	18	17	27
Chester	17	6	8	3	30	22	26
Wrexham	17	7	5	5	25	18	26
Cheltenham	17	6	5	6	22	23	23
Northampton	17	5	9	3	20	16	24
Peterborough	17	5	9	3	20	16	24
Soston Utd	17	6	5	6	22	23	23
Darlington	17	5	7	5	19	17	22
Shrewsbury	17	5	7	5	15	18	22
Oxford Utd	17	5	7	5	15	18	22
Notts County	17	5	7	5	17	22	22
Lincoln City	17	5	7	5	17	22	22
Bury	17	5	7	5	17	22	22
Barnet	17	5	7	5	17	22	22
Bristol Rovers	17	5	4	8	20	27	19
Rushden & D.	17	4	6	7	17	23	18
Manston	17	4	6	7	17	23	18
Stockport	17	2	10	5	23	33	16
Macclesfield	17	5	6	6	17	28	15
Torquay	17	3	4	10	15	30	13

Nationwide Conference

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Accrington St.	17	11	2	4	31	13	35
Exeter	17	10	4	3	32	16	34
Grays Athletic	16	9	3	4	30	19	33
Clevedon	16	9	3	4	30	21	30
York	16	8	4	4	29	16	28
Halifax	16	8	4	4	29	16	28
Morcambe	16	8	2	6	26	16	26
Hereford	16	7	5	4	21	11	26
Woking	16	7	5	4	21	11	26
Cambridge Utd	16	6	3	7	24	22	21
Bag & Red	16	6	3	7	24	22	21
Canvey Island	16	5	5	6	22	24	20
Gravesend	16	5	4	7	22	26	19
Kidderminster	16	4	3	9	18	19	15
Aldershot	16	5	3	8	22	30	18
Burton Albion	16	4	4	8	19	18	16
Altrincham	16	4	5	7	11	26	17
Crawley Town	16	4	4	8	19	26	16
Scarborough	16	4	4	8	15	27	16
Southport	16	4	3	9	19	31	15
Forest Green	16	3	5	8	15	23	14
Tamworth	16	3	5	8	15	23	14

Bank of Scotland

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celtic	14	11	2	1	38	12	35
Hearts	14	11	2	1	30	9	35
Hibernian	14	10	2	2	26	11	32
Rangers	14	6	5	3	23	13	23
Kilmarnock	14	5	4	5	25	24	19
Dundee	14	5	3	6	20	16	18
Aberdeen	14	4	5	5	17	17	17
Inverness CT	14	5	3	6	15	17	17
Dundee Utd.	14	3	4	7	16	25	13
Falkirk	14	3	4	7	13	26	13
Dunfermline	14	1	2	11	9	29	5
Livingston	14	0	5	9	7	30	5

Bell's Scottish League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St Mirren	14	10	2	2	21	11	32
Rose County	14	7	5	2	20	13	26
St Johnstone	14	6	6	2	18	14	24
Hamilton	14	6	2	21	16	24	20
Clyde	14	6	4	4	19	18	22
Dundee	14	4	8	2	19	10	20
Airdrie Utd	14	4	4	6	17	15	16
Stranraer	14	2	7	5	13	19	11
Queen of Sp.	14	1	5	8	8	21	8
Brechin	14	1	4	9	10	28	4

Second Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gretna	14	11	3	0	38	13	36
Morton	14	9	1	4	25	14	28
Partick	14	6	6	2	26	19	24
Peterhead	14	6	2	6	24	26	18
Dumbarton	14	5	2	7	20	18	17
Raith	13	5	2	6	20	24	17
Forfar	13	7	1	5	19	22	22
Stirling	15	4	3	8	18	27	15
Stranraer	13	7	1	5	20	13	22
Alloa	15	2	4	9	18	36	10

Third Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bervick	15	13	1	1	30	13	36
Stenhousemuir	14	10	2	2	28	13	32
Cowdenbeath	14	10	2	2	27	13	30
East Fife	14	6	2	6	20	24	20
Queens Park	13	5	3	5	19	15	18
Arbroath	14	4	6	17	21	14	14
Montrose	14	3	4	7	12	17	13
Albion	14	2	5	15	15	27	11
Elgin	15	5	8	15	27	11	11
East Stirling	13	2	2	9	13	31	8

Phillips: Fans won't Light-en up for you



PHILLIPS: Cult status

KEVIN PHILLIPS was last night warned not to expect a hero's welcome on his return to the Stadium of Light today. Along with Thomas Sorensen and Gavin McCann, the Aston Villa striker faces Sunderland for the first time since the club was purged of its big earners in the wake of relegation in 2003.

Phillips scored 113 goals in 208 league games for the Black Cats and enjoyed cult status among the Mackem faithful.

Worst

But Mick McCarthy insists that as key figures in the worst side in Premiership history, the trio don't deserve the red carpet treatment - especially with so much at stake today.

And in a thinly-veiled dig at Phillips, he revealed that given the choice, McCann would have been the one he would have wanted to retain had

■ by IAN MURTAGH

finances allowed. The Sunderland team on duty this afternoon will include no one who shared a dressing room with the three players all signed by Peter Reid.

And that suits McCarthy just fine for a game that has already been labelled a relegation six-pointer.

McCarthy said: "I don't think there's any room for sentiment. The three coming back were all involved in the relegation team."

But Villa keeper Sorensen is not scared about taking on the role of heartbreaker against his former club.

He said: "I still look for their results and I will be staying up there after the game. But while I know that if we win it will hurt them, I'm a professional and that's a job I have to try and do."



TEAMTALK

BARNET v TORQUAY

STRIKER Giuliano Grazzoli (groin) is pushing to return to the Bees line-up. THE Gulls are boosted by the return of Paul Robinson, who was cupped for the penalty shoot-out win over Harrogate in the FA Cup.

LEYTON O v STOCKPORT

ORIENT striker Lee Steele could play for the first time since September 3 following a double hernia operation. MICKAEL WOLSKI (virus) will not travel to London for the Hatters and Tony Vaughan (knee) is still out.

BOSTON v NOTTS CO

ON-LOAN star Ian Ross returns for Boston and defender Lee Canoville is back from suspension. COUNTY defender Dan Martin has now recovered from rib problems meaning striker Steve Scoffham is likely to be the sole absentee.

MACCLESFIELD v DARLINGTON

MARTIN BULLOCK (calf) is doubtful for Town, while Mark Bailey (Achilles) and Tony Barras (hip) have no chance of featuring. DARLO'S Gylain Ndumbu-Nsungu and Jonathan Hutchinson return from suspension.

BURY v RUSHDEN

SHAKERS' midfielder Brian Barry-Murphy has a slim chance of featuring, but David Flitcroft is suspended. GREG PEARSON has an ankle injury and is doubtful for Rushden, while Drewe Broughton is still banned.

NORTHAMPTON v BRISTOL ROV

THE Cobblers have a doubt over Martin Smith, who missed training through illness and faces a late fitness check. PAUL TROLLOPE is set to recall James Hunt from suspension and Ali Gibb (flu) returns.

CARLISLE v OXFORD

NEW Carlisle signing Michael Bridges may have to settle for a place on the bench, while Zigor Aranalde (ligament damage) is still out. OXFORD boss Brian Talbot will run a late fitness check on defender Jon Ashton (ankle).

wooly's world

READ THE VOICE OF SPORT EVERY SATURDAY & MONDAY

KEANE HAD TO BE AXED Guus is right one for us...

HE had to go and United now have to move on.

Roy Keane's departure is no surprise and was inevitable after that banned TV outburst against his team-mates.

Keane's criticism was accurate but badly placed and when the club stopped it appearing on MUTV there was no way the split could be repaired.

Legend

Keane will be remembered as a United legend and the club should always be grateful for his contribution.

But what yesterday's news proves is that everything comes to an end.

Manager Sir Alex Ferguson has lost his favourite lieutenant and it should be a pointer to

him. Fergie should follow Keane out of the Old Trafford door at the end of the season and allow this famous club to start again.

Keane and Fergie have been a fantastic double act - volatile but successful.

Keane will no doubt have something lined up and don't be surprised if he carries on playing. Celtic would love to take him.

But he knows he'll never be the same player again and that is the ultimate message from yesterday's announcement.

Eras do end and Manchester United are no different. There is life after Keane and a number of his team-mates in the dressing room will be relieved he's gone.



DUTCH MASTER: Australia boss Guus Hiddink is being tipped as Eriksson's successor

FROM Sydney to Soho Square, the FA are searching hard for a manager to eventually replace Sven Goran Eriksson.

The only criteria they all agree on is that he has to be the best man available. With World Cup and European Championship experience, the new manager needs to have handled top players.

But the million dollar question for the FA's International Committee is do they go English or foreign? After Eriksson, they would like an English coach, yet who fits the bill with the above qualities? They know there isn't anyone.

So dare they go foreign again? Before he led Australia to their first World Cup since 1974 in Sydney this week, Dutchman Guus Hiddink had been discussed enthusiastically inside FA HQ in London. Australia's victory has simply added to his reputation.

Hiddink has definite support at the FA and there are some who would sound him out now in case Eriksson suddenly announces after the World Cup he is quitting and returning to club management.

Eriksson keeps insisting he has a contract until 2008 and his assistant Tord Grip said recently Sven will stay on after Germany.

Disaster

There are not many who believe that and why should he, apart from the money? A great World Cup would put him in demand while a disaster would see him hounded out of the job.

So what is Plan B for the FA? At the moment there isn't one and they know that going into the World Cup in seven months' time they have to have someone to fall back on.

Hiddink is hugely successful and popular. He led South Korea to the World Cup semi-finals in 2002 and last season took his club PSV Eindhoven to the Champions League last four.

The Aussies hand-picked him to get them to the World Cup and he did it on Wednesday with the play-off penalty shoot-out victory against Uruguay.

He is known to be a superb man manager and tactically astute. He has a top reputation across the world but is foreign. It is the only thing holding the FA back.

What would your attitude be?

IS WOOLY RIGHT?

Text DSWOOLY followed by a space and your comments to 61616. Texts cost 25p plus your normal network rate. Or e-mail me on brian.woolnough@dailystar.co.uk

Would you be against another foreign coach in charge of the national side or, like me, just want the best in the job?

FA chairman Geoff Thompson and Eriksson are both on record as saying the only thing that matters is employing the best.

If they don't go foreign because of pressure from you, the fans, then who is there from the English camp?

Peter Taylor is highly thought of and on the FA pay-roll as Under-21 coach. But he has only been in charge of one senior international, the defeat in Italy five years ago when he made David Beckham captain.

He has the players on his side. But is that enough?

Sam Allardyce at Bolton would walk to London on his hands for the job and is desperate for the challenge.

Judged

Sam feels his success at unfashionable Bolton is not given enough credit and thinks he is made for international management.

Charlton's Alan Curbishley is highly rated but is he experienced enough for the biggest matches of all?

Middlesbrough manager Steve McClaren, Eriksson's right-hand man, will be judged at the World Cup. If England reach the final and Eriksson goes, then McClaren has a chance.

But that's it and why talk inside Soho Square goes back to Hiddink. The FA also know if they don't soon put down plans for a new man, they could miss out before the start of next season.

Hiddink is eyed enviously by a number of top clubs across Europe and some Manchester United fans who see him as the successor to Sir Alex Ferguson. It is a big problem for the FA.

Dare they go foreign again and possibly risk the wrath of supporters? If they do, then Hiddink is their man.

Vieira should Pat a sock in it

ENOUGH is enough. Patrick Vieira's outburst against Ruud van Nistelrooy has gone on too long and the former Arsenal captain is losing respect.

Vieira should remember what he was like early in his career in English football. Often he acted like a thug by losing control and there were people queuing up to have a go.

To publicly abuse once

is fine - the impact is made - but to repeat it over and over is stupid and, yes, we get the message. But Patrick, please, belt up now.

HARRY KEWELL was impressive in Australia's World Cup victory over Uruguay.

I'm sure it's not too much to ask for him to raise his game for the rest of the season. Kewell owes Liverpool big time.

PLODKER OF THE WEEK

TERRY VENABLES. Does he want the Republic of Ireland job or not?

And why does there always have to be a drama with El Tel?

It would be fantastic if the 62-year-old former England manager was back in the game. He still has a lot to offer.

But this on-off saga, denials and 'I know nothing about it' stuff is so unnecessary. We have been here before and Venables does have a history of cloak-and-dagger negotiations.

Now Kevin Keegan is being linked with the Republic of Ireland.

If I was them, I'd still go for Venables and forget about Keegan. That would only end in tears.

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Pompey not so par-fect

by PETER WHITE

PORTSMOUTH boss Alain Perrin admits he is a worried man – so much so that even his golf is being affected.

But if Pompey fail to beat Liverpool at Anfield today, Perrin may have plenty of time to lower his 18 handicap.

He accepts his job at Fratton Park is on the line.

A point against the club champions of Europe may just save his scalp for another week however.

Pride

Perrin has managed just four wins in 19 matches during his seven months at Pompey and accepts 10 points from the opening 12 games this season is woeful.

He said: "I never play to lose but although I want to win, I know that to get a draw at Anfield would be a good result. If someone offered it to me I would sign for it right now."

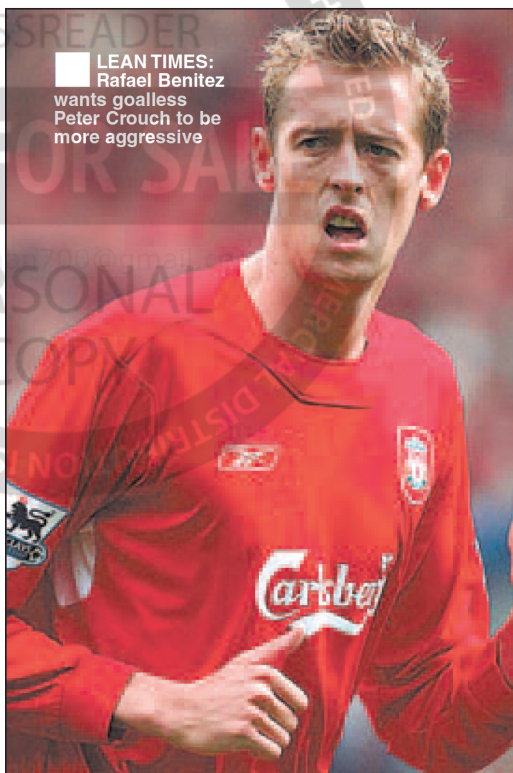
"Inside me I have my pride so I want to win and do my best every time."

"I hate to lose. I never do anything to take my mind away from football. I think about it all the time."

"Sometimes I try to play golf but I am not playing at the moment because I worry about the football."

SERIOUSLY football

Benitez tells Crouch it is time to toughen up



LEAN TIMES: Rafael Benitez wants goalless Peter Crouch to be more aggressive

PETER HAS TO GET RAF

BOSS Rafael Benitez wants nice guy Peter Crouch to turn nasty and spark a goal surge.

by CHRIS HARPER

The 6ft 7in striker hasn't netted in 17 appearances for Liverpool and England since his £7m summer move from Southampton.

But his team-mates have backed him – as has Anfield manager Benitez.

Crouch aired his frustration this week when he said he would celebrate his first club goal by jumping into the Kop.

And he is desperate to score today against Portsmouth – one of the seven clubs he has played for even though he is only 24.

Benitez will celebrate too and insists Crouch is going to be a valuable figure for the European champions.

He said: "He's a nice boy. Sometimes too nice."

"Centre-forwards in England cannot be too nice. You must be hard and aggressive against defenders because

they will be hard and aggressive against you.

"There are players who are not really skilful players who need to be very aggressive."

"In the case of Peter, he has ability and quality and he tries to play good football and pass the ball."

"He's a target man and is good in the air but sometimes needs to be more aggressive."

"This is a problem when you have quality and it's about bringing the two together."

Clever

"That means you need to work with him and it is not enough just to play well. You need to be a little bit more aggressive."

"We are trying to give him more confidence in training."

"He is also a clever person and if you explain to him what you want then he will try to improve."

Benitez smiled when asked if Crouch could take a leaf

out of the book of Jamie Carragher.

"Maybe we can change Carra and Peter for 30 minutes," he said.

In contrast to Crouch, Luis Garcia returns to Liverpool from the international break after his hat-trick for Spain in their World Cup play-off success against Slovakia. It was his first start for his country.

Benitez said: "He has to come back down to earth now."

"A lot of people are talking really well about him. The Spanish press are saying Liverpool must go to the World Cup, with Luis Garcia and Fernando Morientes scoring goals."

"The same happened when England beat Germany 5-1."

"They say 'thank you' Liverpool."

"Whenever the players play well I tell them to keep going. But the most important thing is not the manager."

"The people around him are more important. He knows he is in a good situation now."

A beautiful weekend

Today

Barclays Premiership – Wigan v Arsenal, from 12pm

Golf – The Algarve World Cup Day 3, from 1pm

International Rugby Union – England v New Zealand, from 2pm

Tri-Nations Rugby League – Great Britain v Australia, from 6pm

La Liga – Real Madrid v Barcelona, from 6.30pm

Tomorrow

Test Cricket – Pakistan v England 2nd Test, from 4am

Golf – The Algarve World Cup Day 4, from 1pm

Barclays Premiership – Middlesbrough v Fulham, from 3.30pm

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**SERIOUSLY
football****Barca boss admits he's keen on Arsenal hitman****Jewell has 'em scared**

by MARK OGDEN

PAUL JEWELL claims Arsene Wenger's line-up against Wigan will prove that even the Premiership's big boys now fear his side.

Arsenal face second-placed Wigan aware that even three points won't be enough for them to leapfrog the Premiership's big boys now fear his side.

Jewell said: "With Arsenal playing in the Champions League in midweek, it would have been interesting to see what sort of team Arsene would have put out today if we were struggling. "At the start of the season, he may have wanted to rest players in this game. He still can. But I think he'll play his strongest side."

FRANK WOULD LOVE HENRY

THIERRY HENRY'S summer move to Barcelona took a step closer yesterday as the Spanish club's boss confessed he'd love to have the Frenchman in his side.

Frank Rijkaard picked his words carefully but still gave the biggest hint yet that Henry's switch to La Liga is very much on the cards.

Great

"It looks bad if I say that he is a bad player because he isn't - he is a great player," said the Dutchman.

"That is not to say he is going to come to Barcelona, but he would be a great addition to the squad."

Starsport was first to reveal Henry was angling for a move to the Nou Camp and his refusal to talk about a new contract has added to fans' fears the skipper and club

■ **EXCLUSIVE** by DAVID WOODS

record goalscorer is in his last season with Arsenal.

Rijkaard's comments came after Barca's technical secretary Txiki Beguiristain went on Spanish radio to reveal how keen they are on Henry. "He is one of the players that would improve the squad here," said Beguiristain when he was asked if Barca wanted to sign Henry.

Henry is set to be offered a contract worth £120,000 a week by the Catalan club, around double what he's being paid at Arsenal.

Starsport has also revealed how the Gunners will try to land Cameroon striker Samuel Eto'o as part of a swap deal involving Henry. We also told how the club's president Joan Laporta was hoping the signing of Henry would enable him to call an election and keep his position at the Nou Camp.



NOU WAY HE'LL STAY: Barca have revealed their interest in Thierry Henry

**Will Inter's
Argentinians
bounce back?****Inter****Parma**

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FOOTBALL ITALIA ON BRAVO**Wenger: I did Pat a favour**

ARSENE WENGER yesterday insisted he did Patrick Vieira a favour by selling him for £14m to Juventus.

Arsenal have struggled at times without their skipper and go to Wigan today having failed to muster an away win in the Premiership this season. Vieira revealed in his recently-published autobiography

■ by DAVID WOODS

he didn't want to end his career at the Gunners but said the club did nothing to keep him.

"Patrick feels he was not wanted here any more," admitted the Arsenal boss. "But on the one side he had two years left with us

and was offered five years with Juventus, at 29 years old.

"I felt if I was not able to offer him three more years I would not be honest with him because he gave nine of his best years with the club. Somewhere along the line you have to let him choose how he will finish his career."

**BARCLAYS
PREMIERSHIP****TEAMTALK****CHARLTON v
MAN UTD**

CHARLTON'S Jonathan Spector will be unavailable under the terms of his season-long loan deal from United. Alexei Smertin should recover from his groin problem and may return. UNITED'S Gary Neville returns from a groin strain which has sidelined him for three months. **LAST SEASON:** Charlton 0 Man Utd 4. **REFEREE:** M Riley.

**CHELSEA v
NEWCASTLE**

CHELSEA have doubts over Arjen Robben and Hernan Crespo (both hamstring). NEWCASTLE striker Alan Shearer hoped to be fit after surgery to repair a hernia less than a fortnight ago but will not be risked. Lee Bowyer is in the squad after recovering from a knee problem. **LAST SEASON:** Chelsea 4 Newcastle 0. **REFEREE:** M Halsey.

**LIVERPOOL v
PORTSMOUTH**

LIVERPOOL'S John Arne Riise returned from Norway's defeat by the Czech Republic with a gashed head but has trained and could be fit. PORTSMOUTH skipper Dejan Stefanovic (ankle) misses out but Andy O'Brien is fit after a knee injury. Dario Silva and Zvonimir Vukic face late tests. **LAST SEASON:** Liverpool 1 Portsmouth 1. **REFEREE:** P Walton.

**MAN CITY v
BLACKBURN**

CITY'S Sun Jihai looks set to be handed a central midfield berth, with Joey Barton suspended and Claudio Reyna (ankle) almost certainly out. Kiki Musampa (hamstring) is doubtful. BLACKBURN'S Ryan Nelsen is expected to return after injury, as are Robbie Savage and Michael Gray. **LAST SEASON:** Man City 1 Blackburn 1. **REFEREE:** M Atkinson.

**SUNDERLAND v
ASTON VILLA**

SUNDERLAND'S Stephen Wright (knee ligament) and Christian Bassila (hamstring) are back but Julio Arca (foot) will not be risked. VILLA are without Mark Delaney (groin) but Aaron Hughes (groin) and Wilfred Bouma (hamstring) return from injury. Bouma will return at left-back. **LAST SEASON:** No corresponding fixture. **REFEREE:** C Foy.

**WEST BROM v
EVERTON**

WEST BROM striker Kevin Campbell's ankle injury denies him the chance to face his former club. Midfielder Zoltan Gera is ruled out after a hernia operation. EVERTON will give Tim Cahill a late test on a groin injury after arriving back from Australia's World Cup play-off win over Uruguay. **LAST SEASON:** West Brom 1 Everton 0. **REFEREE:** S Bennett.

**WIGAN v
ARSENAL**

WIGAN manager Paul Jewell looks set to field his first-choice starting line-up. Defender Steve McMillan is a doubt with a hamstring problem. ARSENAL boss Arsene Wenger has decided on who will replace the injured Gael Clichy at left-back but will not reveal whether it is Pascal Cygan or Kolo Toure. **LAST SEASON:** No corresponding fixture. **REFEREE:** G Poil.

**MIDDLESBROUGH v
FULHAM**

TOMORROW 4pm MIDDLESBROUGH keeper Mark Schwarzer is a doubt with a slight shoulder problem. Skipper Gareth Southgate is back after four weeks out with a groin injury. FULHAM are without suspended Luis Boa Morte and injured duo Claus Jensen and Carlos Bocanegra. **LAST SEASON:** Middlesbrough 1 Fulham 1. **REFEREE:** U Rennie.

**TOTTENHAM v
WEST HAM**

TOMORROW 1pm TOTTENHAM'S Ledley King will be available despite a knee injury, and winger Aaron Lennon has recovered from a hamstring injury. WEST HAM keeper Shaka Hislop retains his place. Former Spurs striker Teddy Sheringham will definitely start. **LAST SEASON:** No corresponding fixture. **REFEREE:** A Wiley.

Defeat lifts us — Duff

by DAVID WOODS

DAMIEN DUFF claimed Chelsea's defeat at Manchester United could be a blessing in disguise.

The Irish winger insisted the loss — which ended the champions' unbeaten run of 40 Premiership matches — would take some pressure off the Blues.

Arsenal crumbled last season after their record 49-match effort came to an end, also at Old Trafford.

But Duff said: "That was Arsenal, this is Chelsea. Of course we wanted to keep that unbeaten run going."

"But in a sense the Old Trafford result has lifted some of the pressure off our shoulders."

Strike

Hernan Crespo has the opportunity to wrestle the No.1 strike role from suspended Didier Drogba against Newcastle today.

The Argentinian has pledged his future to Chelsea despite speculation he wanted to leave.

He confirmed: "I will stay. When I came back three months ago, I signed a new contract for one more year."

"So why do I need to change something after three months?"

"I have shown that, when I have an opportunity to do something at Chelsea, I am ready. But the season is long."

"If I don't have a lot of minutes now, I don't have a problem. Normally I need to play more, but I don't have problems with anybody."

Battle weary Boro

by IAN MURTAGH

MIDDLESBROUGH'S plans for tomorrow's game against Fulham have been thrown into disarray by events 12,000 miles away.

Australia's dramatic shoot-out victory over Uruguay on Wednesday night has left Boro chief Steve McClaren with a World Cup hangover.

Socceroos hero Mark Schwarzer, who saved two penalties to book the Aussies' ticket to the finals in Germany next summer, reported back at the Riverside yesterday jet-lagged, weary and carrying a knock.

Scary

Team-mate Mark Viduka did not even fly back to England having received treatment Down Under for an Achilles tendon injury picked up during the 1-0 win in Sydney.

Meanwhile, Fulham boss Chris Coleman has vowed to keep his cool after he had to be restrained last season from confronting referee Rob Styles during his last visit to Teesside.

Coleman recalled: "It was scary because I just completely lost it."

Sou's message to Mour



SPECIALIST STRIKE FORCE: Alan Shearer (left) and Michael Owen would get into Chelsea's team, says Babayaro

TOON ARE 'SPECIAL' TOO, JOSE

JOSE MOURINHO will be dealt a dose of his own medicine when Graeme Souness takes in-form Newcastle to Stamford Bridge.

For the Toon chief plans to unleash his own special players on the 'Special One'.

And Souness is convinced they can conjure a brand of magic to inflict a third successive defeat on Chelsea.

His optimism is matched within the Toon camp with former Blues defender Celestine Babayaro insisting the home side won't have a monopoly on star quality this afternoon.

And in a cheeky dig at Mourinho's multi-millionaires, he claimed Newcastle — hardly paupers themselves — have six players who could command regular slots in the Chelsea side.

Heroics

The Nigerian said: "We have a lot of special players too. Maybe not as many as Chelsea but there are plenty here."

"Michael Owen, Alan Shearer, Nol Solano, Emre, Scott Parker and Shay Given could all hold their own in the Chelsea team."

Few would dispute his claim that £17m Owen, fresh from his England heroics against Argentina, could enhance the Chelsea forward line even though Mourinho wasn't tempted to join the race to sign him four months ago.

Consistent Given has as many admirers as Petr Cech and, indeed, this season, has looked the better keeper.

Babayaro's remaining nominations are more contentious even though Shearer, missing today following a hernia operation, would have walked into any side in the world at his peak.

In contrast to the defender, Parker is

by IAN MURTAGH

keeping his thoughts to himself ahead of his return to Chelsea but Souness reckons the duel between the Blues reject and Emre against Frank Lampard and Claude Makelule will be crucial.

And like Babayaro, he wouldn't swap his pair, saying: "Makelule's been an outstanding performer on the biggest stages for a long time and for the last couple of years Lampard has grown into a world class footballer."

"But we have two young players in those positions who may be less well known but they possess tremendous quality themselves. Scott has nothing to prove to anyone but I'm sure he's relishing this challenge."

Stardust

The Geordies have never won a Premiership game at Stamford Bridge and have been hammered on their last three visits.

But Souness said: "We have special players who would get into most sides and my team is capable of winning anywhere and at any time."

He said: "When my son asks me which are the good teams in the league, I tell them they're all good because they're in the Premiership."

"The vast majority of games at this level are finely balanced and usually settled by something special."

"I believe I have special players here who can conjure up that something special on the day which can win the game even if we're not playing particularly well."

"We have players who can turn a game on its head as Michael Owen did for England in Switzerland."



BABAYARO: Eager

BABAYARO'S DREAM TEAM
THIS is how Celestine Babayaro's combined Chelsea-Newcastle XI might line up:
Given, Ferreira, Terry, Gallas, Del Horno, Solano, Parker, Lampard, Emre, Shearer, Owen.

Information Station

FOOTBALL	
Coca-Cola Championship	
Derby (0).....0	Wolves (0).....3
At: 22.269	At: 19.288
Coca-Cola League One	
Swansea (1).....2	Yeovil (0).....0
Trundle 25 pen, 67	Sent off: Johnson (Yeovil) 53
Coca-Cola League Two	
Cheltenham (1).....4	Lincoln City (0).....1
Gurnan 31	Mayo 80
Wilson 84, 85, Gillespie 90	At: 3.078
Nationwide Conference	
Accrington S (1).....2	Forest G R (0).....0
Roberts 33	At: 1.506
Jagielka 47	
CRICKET	
Second Test Match (Hobart): West Indies 149 v Australia 256-1 (M E K Hussey 116no, M L Hayden 110).	
GOLF	
WGC-Algarve World Cup (Victoria Club de Gole, Vilamoura, Portugal)—2nd rd foursomes (par 72): 128 Sweden (H Stenson, N Fasth) 67, Wales (B Dredge, S Dodd) 67, England (D Howell, L Donald) 69, 129 Argentina (R Gonzalez, A Cabrera) 61, 130 Netherlands (R-J Derksen, M Laferber) 67, 132 Denmark (A Hansen, S Hansen) 68, Also: 136 Ireland (P Harrington, P McGinley) 69, 139 Scotland (S Drummond, S Gallacher) 74.	
RUGBY UNION	
Guinness Premiership	
Sale.....24	Leicester.....16
Sale—T: Taylor, Lund, C: Courment, P: Laroche (3), Courment, Leicester—T: Cornwell, C: Goode, P: Broadfoot (3), At: 10.641.	
Worcester.....24	Bristol.....15
Worcester—T: Deport, Havill, C: Drahm, P: Drahm (4), Bristol—T: El Abd, Lemli, C: El Abd, P: Strange, At: 9.762.	
	P W D L F A Pts
Sale.....8	7 0 1 196 131 31
Worcester.....7	5 1 1 185 130 24
Leicester.....8	4 2 2 197 150 23
Worcester.....8	5 1 2 154 153 22
Gloucester.....7	4 1 2 168 129 21
London Irish.....7	4 0 3 151 140 20
Saracens.....7	3 1 3 164 149 18
Bristol.....8	3 0 5 140 169 14
Northampton.....7	2 1 4 121 156 12
Newcastle.....7	2 0 5 110 157 11
Leeds.....7	1 5 1 127 144 10
Leeds.....7	0 0 7 102 207 2
Welsh Premiership: Ebbw Vale P Pontypridd P, Glamorgan W 17 Cross Keys 18, Llandovery 15 Bridgend 19, Llanelli P, Aberavon P, Maesteg 25, Swansea 16, Neath P, Carmarthen P, Newport 16 Bedwas 13, Pontypool 13 Cardiff 12.	
TODAY'S DIARY	
FOOTBALL	
Southern—Prem: Banbury v Yale, Bath v Aylesbury, Bedford Tn v Halesowen, Cheshunt v Salisbury, Chippenham v Team Bath, Cirencester v Gloucester, Evesham v Northwood, Hitchin v Rugby Tn, Mangotsfield v Chesham, Merthyr v King's Lynn, Tiverton v Grantham.	
Ryman—Prem: Braintree Tn v Folkestone Inv, Brantley v Billericay, Chelmsford v AFC Wimbledon, East Thurrock v Leyton, Fisher v Slough, Harlow v Harrow B, Malden v Staines T, Tedbridge v Heybridge, Wealdstone v Walton & Hersham, Windsor & Eton v Margate, Worthing v Harn & Rich.	
Unibond—Prem: Ashton Utd v Ossett Tn, Bradford P A v Marine, Farsley Celtic v Prescott, Cables, Frickley v Wotton Alb, Ilkeston Tn v Nth Ferriby Utd, Leek Tn v Blyth Spartans, Lincoln Utd v AFC Telford, Malton Tn v Guseley, Runcorn v Gateshead, Whitley v Burscough, Wild & Emley v Radcliffe Borough.	
FA Vase—2nd Rd: AFC Sudbury v Romford, Arnold Tn v Palsall Villa, Barrow Tn v Quorn, Bemerton Hth Harlequins v St Blazey, Bicester Tn v Dorling, Bishop's Cleeve v Leamington, Bishops Cleeve v Newton Abbot, Bodmin Tn v Bilton, Bournemouth v Frome Tn, Edgware Tn v Slintbridge, Stockport Tn v Eggham, Bury Tn v Harwell Tn, Buxton	

BASKETBALL

BBL: Leicester v Sheffield, London Towers v Scottish Rocks.

CRICKET

Second Test Match—day 3 of 5: Australia v West Indies (Hobart).
Second One Day International: India v South Africa (Bangalore).

GOLF

Japan Golf Tour Dunlop Phoenix (Phoenix Country Club, Miyazaki).
WGC—Algarve World Cup (Victoria Club de Gole, Portugal).

ICE HOCKEY

Elite League: Basingstoke v Coventry, Nottingham v Edinburgh.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Gillette Tri-Nations Tournament (6.15): Great Britain v Australia.

RUGBY UNION

International Matches (2pm): England v New Zealand (2.30), France v Tonga, Ireland v Australia (2.30), Italy v Argentina, Portugal v Fiji (3pm), Romania v Canada (12pm), Wales v South Africa (5pm).

TOMORROW'S DIARY

BASKETBALL

BBL: Birmingham v Scottish Rocks, Trophy: Plymouth v London United.

CRICKET

Second Test Match—day 4 of 5: Australia v West Indies (Hobart).
Second Test Match—day 1 of 5: Pakistan v England (Faisalabad).

GOLF

Japan Golf Tour Dunlop Phoenix (Phoenix Country Club, Miyazaki).
WGC—Algarve World Cup (Victoria Club de Gole, Portugal).

ICE HOCKEY

Elite League: Edinburgh v Basingstoke, Cardiff v London, Coventry v Nottingham, Belfast v Sheffield.

RUGBY UNION

International Match (3pm): Scotland v Samoa.

Guinness Premiership

Leeds v Northampton (2.30), London Irish v Gloucester, Saracens v Newcastle, Wasps v Bath.

YESTERDAY'S SPORTSWORTH

ACROSS: 1 Mills, 4 Beech, 7 You, 8 Shire, 9 Rossi, 10 Sole, 11 George, 14 Dawson, 15 Adam, 18 Night, 20 Elias, 21 Orr, 22 Stern, 23 Brown.
DOWN: 1 Moses, 2 Laidlaw, 3 Sved, 4 Burey, 5 Els, 6 Heiko, 12 Rodrigo, 13 Morton, 14 Denis, 16 Mason, 17 Herb, 19 Gee.

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SERIOUSLY football **END OF AN ERA: United's midfield tiger bites off**

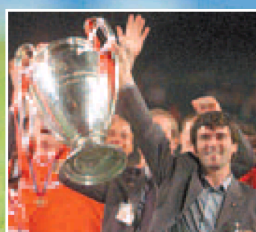
You're my inspiration says Becks

BAD BREAK: Keane's foot is broken in this tackle by Liverpool's Luis Garcia in what proved to be his final game for United

SEEING RED: Keano signs in 1993



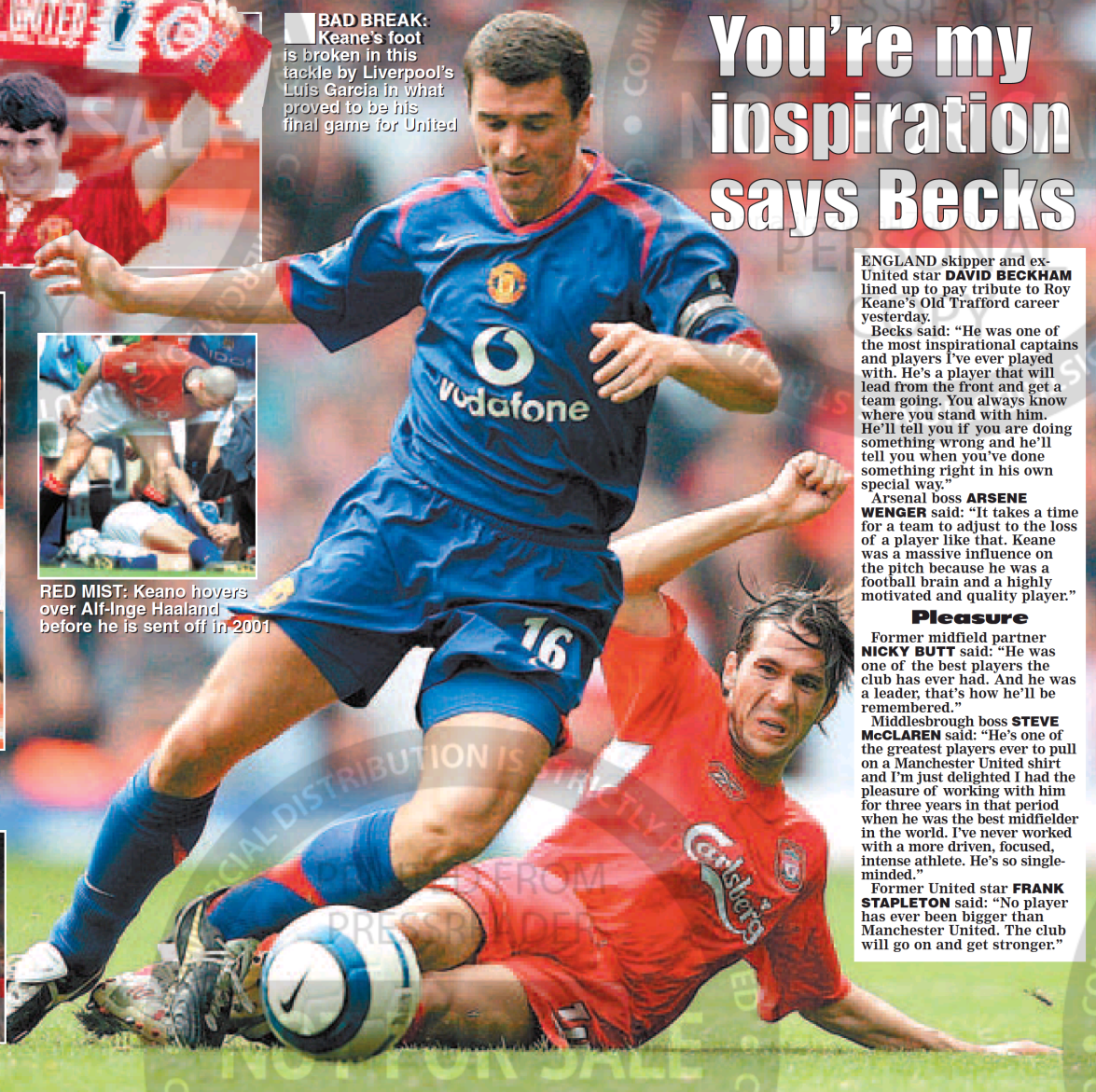
OUCH: Keano and Patrick Vieira clash in 1999



CUP THAT: Keano with European Cup in 1999



RED MIST: Keano hovers over Alf-Inge Haaland before he is sent off in 2001



ENGLAND skipper and ex-United star **DAVID BECKHAM** lined up to pay tribute to Roy Keane's Old Trafford career yesterday.

Becks said: "He was one of the most inspirational captains and players I've ever played with. He's a player that will lead from the front and get a team going. You always know where you stand with him. He'll tell you if you are doing something wrong and he'll tell you when you've done something right in his own special way."

Arsenal boss **ARSEN WENGER** said: "It takes a time for a team to adjust to the loss of a player like that. Keane was a massive influence on the pitch because he was a football brain and a highly motivated and quality player."

Pleasure

Former midfield partner **NICKY BUTT** said: "He was one of the best players the club has ever had. And he was a leader, that's how he'll be remembered."

Middlesbrough boss **STEVE MCCLAREN** said: "He's one of the greatest players ever to pull on a Manchester United shirt and I'm just delighted I had the pleasure of working with him for three years in that period when he was the best midfielder in the world. I've never worked with a more driven, focused, intense athlete. He's so single-minded."

Former United star **FRANK STAPLETON** said: "No player has ever been bigger than Manchester United. The club will go on and get stronger."

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more than he can chew by taking on Fergie



ONE SCRAP TOO MANY FOR KEANE

ROY KEANE'S Manchester United dream ended in bitterness and disappointment last night after falling foul of Old Trafford dictator Sir Alex Ferguson.

Keane joined a long list of United stars like Jaap Stam, David Beckham, Gordon Strachan, Paul Ince and Paul McGrath who left the club after clashing with Fergie.

And when the two giant football personalities met head on, there could only be one winner.

That is the verdict of former United manager Tommy Docherty, who claimed the announcement that Keane's departure "by mutual consent" is a smokescreen.

Docherty said: "I think he has been pushed. I have said it for years, that if you fall out with Alex Ferguson, you are on your way out."

"I hear they have given him a testimonial. Big deal. It is the fans who pay the testimonial, not the club."

"Roy has been struggling with injuries but he will come back, whether it is as a player or a manager."

Keane, 34, has already declared that he believes he has a bright future in football management but yesterday was about looking back on more than 12 years at Old Trafford.

The fiery Irishman's United stay was shrouded in controversy and his departure from the club was always doomed to be the same.

Speed

But the speed at which Ferguson and Keane's relationship deteriorated took even seasoned United watchers by surprise and the end was brought about by a stormy triple clash over the last three months.

CLASH ONE: Fergie and Keane rowed in the summer because the United skipper was not happy with the club's pre-season arrangements.

CLASH TWO: Keane used United's own TV station, MUTV, to press for a new contract, much to Ferguson's private fury.

CLASH THREE: The demanding Keane made a scathing personal attack on a number of team-mates on MUTV, which furious club officials pulled off air.

As Ferguson's biographer Michael Crick put it: "Alex Ferguson does have this ability to fall out with virtually everybody in the end."

"But the two men are very alike, very abrasive, very

by IAN WHITTELL

determined characters and clearly things started to go wrong in the last few months."

And Keane has proved time and time again that he is every bit as stubborn and bloody-minded as his boss — not least of all when he walked out of the Republic of Ireland World Cup squad in 2002.

Keane would be doomed never to play in a World Cup Finals — just as suspension in 1999 would deny him his dream of appearing in a Champions' League final.

Former Irish star Tony Cascarino said: "Most of Roy's relationships end in tears. There was obviously a bust-up between him and Alex Ferguson."

"Roy reacted angrily when he found out there wasn't going to be a contract offered to him. Roy didn't like that and he became more outspoken."

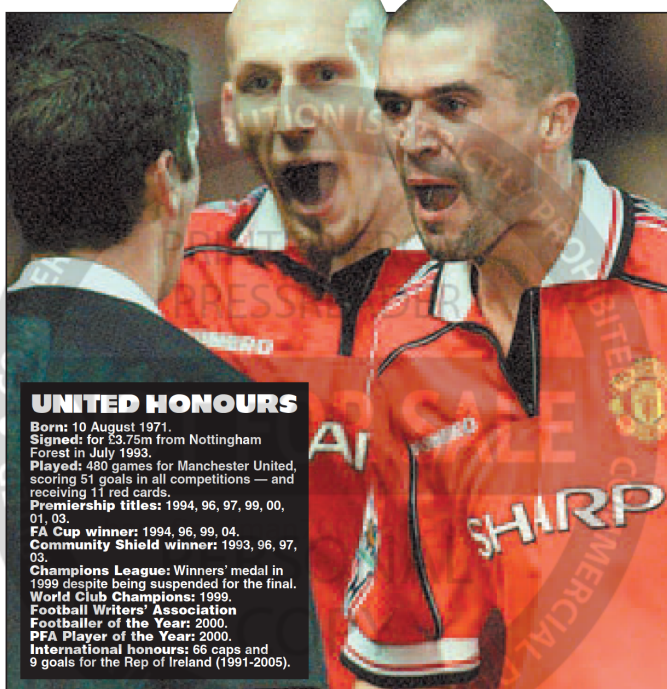
Outburst

That outspoken nature meant Keane would eventually fall foul of his manager.

Ex-United star Gordon McQueen added: "There was never going to be a way back for him after his outburst against his team-mates but as a Manchester United fan I am shocked he's gone."

"Alex Ferguson had to do something after his outburst, especially after the comments he made against younger players."

Throughout his many controversies as a United player



UNITED HONOURS

Born: 10 August 1971.
Signed: for £3.75m from Nottingham Forest in July 1993.
Played: 480 games for Manchester United, scoring 51 goals in all competitions — and receiving 11 red cards.
Premiership titles: 1994, 96, 97, 99, 00, 01, 03.
FA Cup winner: 1994, 96, 99, 04.
Community Shield winner: 1993, 96, 97, 03.
Champions League: Winners' medal in 1999 despite being suspended for the final.
World Club Champions: 1999.
Football Writers' Association Footballer of the Year: 2000.
PFA Player of the Year: 2000.
International honours: 66 caps and 9 goals for the Rep of Ireland (1991-2005).

SHOUT OF ORDER: Keane lets ref Andy D'Urso have it with both barrels

— ending Alf-Inge Haaland's career, 13 red cards, his confrontations with Patrick Vieira — Ferguson stuck by his captain.

That all changed, however, in recent months when Ferguson finally ran out of patience with his once-loyal lieutenant.

In recent days it was made crystal clear to Keane and adviser Michael Kennedy that he would not be offered a new contract when his £90,000-a-week deal expires in June and that he was to be replaced as club captain.

That led to further deterioration in the relationship

between club and player, which ended yesterday morning when Kennedy appeared at United's Carrington training ground to negotiate a settlement with United.

Both parties claimed the split was "by mutual consent."

Bizarre

But Ferguson's unhappiness with Keane was made obvious by the bizarre lengths he took to avoid being grilled on the subject.

The United chief brought forward his pre-match press conference to 11am and was asked whether a decision had

been taken not to offer Keane a new deal.

Ferguson said: "There is nothing at all to report. There has not been any decision to say to Roy, 'We are not offering him a new contract'."

However, within minutes of the last media representatives leaving the Carrington training ground, United officially announced the end of the once-powerful relationship between Ferguson and Keane.

Proof, if ever, that player power will never win at Old Trafford — as long as Ferguson sits in the manager's chair:

Queiroz bust-up sparked Roy exit

From Back Page

Didier Zokora of St Etienne all in the frame. Keane, 34, had been due to return after two months out with a broken foot in Thursday's reserve game against West Brom at Hyde.

England defender Gary Neville, out for three months following groin surgery, played but Keane left after making up his mind never to wear the red No.16 shirt again.

His decision came amid rumours that he'd been told he was to be stripped of the captaincy.

Starsport understands Keane and Queiroz disagreed about tactics.

Keane, like many of the players, has become disillusioned with Queiroz's insistence that United slow the play in a more continental style, sacrificing the flair that was the team's trademark.

There has been an uneasy truce since the Irishman argued with Fergie in a pre-season training camp in Portugal and then missed a tour to the Far East.

Keane rocked the boat again when he criticised players after the 4-1 defeat at Middlesbrough three weeks ago in an interview for the club's own TV station.

Fergie and chief executive David Gill intervened to pull the interview and that angered Keane more, who felt he'd simply pointed out some home truths.

Keane said this would be his last season at United and then admitted he might play for two more seasons — but not in England.

Privilege

In a carefully-worded statement, Keane said: "It has been a great honour and privilege for me to play for Manchester United for over 12 years."

"During my time at the club, I have been fortunate to play alongside some of the best players in the game and in front of the best supporters in the world."

"At all times, I have endeavoured to do my best for the management and the team. Whilst it is a sad day for me to leave such a great club and manager, I believe that the time has now come for me to move on. After so many years, I'll miss everyone at the club."

Fergie added: "Roy Keane has been a fantastic servant for Manchester United. The best midfield player in the world of his generation, he is already one of the great figures in our club's illustrious history."

"Roy has been central to the success of this club over the last 12 years and everyone at Old Trafford wishes him well for the future."

And even Gill said: "Roy has been a towering figure at this club for over a decade. His dedication, talent and leadership have been qualities that have marked him out as one of the true greats."

Keane has spoken in the past about his desire to end his playing days at Celtic — the club he supported as a boy.

Celtic director Dermot Desmond has made fresh inquiries about the veteran Irish midfielder in recent weeks.

Boss Gordon Strachan has to be convinced that outspoken Keane can be an asset to his squad — and not a threat to his job. But the club said yesterday: "Roy Keane was a magnificent player and servant for Manchester United but he also knows all about Celtic."

"If at any time Roy would like to speak to us about his future and Celtic's, we would be only too happy to speak to him, but as yet there have been no discussions."

A host of Premiership clubs are tailing Keane with Everton, Middlesbrough, Bolton, Wigan, Portsmouth and West Brom all saying they'd love to sign him. And he has also been linked with the vacant Republic of Ireland manager's job.

Cristiano Ronaldo, meanwhile, has signed a two-year extension to his Manchester United contract, keeping him at Old Trafford until 2010.

See Wooly's World – Page 50

OLD TRAFFORD SENSATION



HEADING FOR THE EXIT: Roy Keane leaves his house yesterday after news broke of his amazing split with United

Picture: TONY FISHER

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CARLOS BUST-UP WAS END FOR KEANO

Celtic lead chase after shock exit

**EXCLUSIVE**
by BILL THORNTON

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The United skipper turned up to play for the reserves on Thursday night but never pulled on the shirt after a row over tactics with Sir Alex Ferguson's No.2.

The flashpoint proved the final straw in Keane's recent feud with United boss Fergie.

Sparked

And the unhappy Keane, was left with no choice but to leave Old Trafford after 12 years - sparking a scramble for his signature with Scottish giants Celtic leading the way.

Fergie now has the massive problem of finding a worthy successor with Bayern Munich's Michael Ballack, Thomas Gravesen, of Real Madrid, Deportivo La Coruna's Aldo Duschner and

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